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Jobless total worst for four years

Tories battered by fallout from 'black Thursday'

By Robin Oakley and Ross Tieman

THE Chancellor of the Exchequer was yesterday placed under enormous pressure to revive Tory fortunes with his Budget after the government faced a "black Thursday" of gloomy statistics.

Ministers privately admitted concern about Labour's accusations of "government paralysis" in the face of the recession and Michael Howard, the employment secretary, surprised colleagues by announcing that Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, would introduce a "Budget for jobs".

Downing Street admitted cabinet "disappointment" with yesterday's sharp rise in jobless figures but denied that any special Budget package was on the way. Mr Lamont would, however, be continuing policies designed to restore steady growth and rising investment.

The employment department figures showed that the number of people out of work had risen to more than 2.6 million for the first time in

four years. The number of unemployed people soared by 122,137 in January to 2,673,864. It was the 22nd consecutive monthly rise and means the rate of unemployment has risen by 0.4 per cent to 9.4 per cent.

This bad news, which was much worse than the City had predicted, was accompanied by figures showing that mortgage repossessions and arrears were both running at record levels. More than 72,000 homes were taken back by lenders last year. The number of people between six and 12 months behind with repayments rose by a half and the number of homeowners more than 12 months in arrears had tripled to 91,700.

The increase in the number of people out of work since March 1990, when the impact of the present recession began to affect unemployment figures, now exceeds more than one million. The count excludes 450,400 people on government training or business start-up schemes.

After making adjustments for seasonal distortions caused by Christmas and the new year, the employment department calculated an underlying increase of 53,000. To 2,604,000 people unemployed last month. The increase was about 20,000 more than the City expected and it has prompted fears that an upward trend has begun again.

Tory MPs were also unsettled by the continuing stream of poor results and redundancies from industrial giants. Ford announced a record £590 million loss yesterday and it has already said it will have to shed 2,100 jobs. British Aerospace has also said that 2,300 jobs will be lost.

Senior ministers conceded that support for the government is likely to fall in the next batch of opinion polls just as John Major must decide whether he will go to the polls on April 9. Although the prime minister need not call an election on that date until mid-March, ministers agree that a last-minute decision not to face the electorate then could harm Tory prospects.

Deciding to get rid of as much bad news as possible on one day, ministers chose to announce an increase of 10 per cent, or 35p on prescription charges, although they pointed out that only one in six people needing medicine paid the charges because of exemptions.

Opposition MPs were swift to exploit what some were calling the government's "black Thursday". Neil Kinnock passionately denounced Mr Major in the Commons for doing nothing in the face of the recession. He said that more than 840,000 people had lost their jobs since the prime minister acquired his.

When Mr Major conceded that the latest figures were "disappointing", Mr Kinnock replied that they were "devastating" for those concerned. "This government caused the recession, they have continued it and now they have let it get out of control," he said. "This government is guilty on all counts."

Mr Major said the government was working to create long-term permanent jobs. "That's why we have been working to reduce inflation, with success, to bring down interest rates, with success, and cut direct tax rates, with success."

As Mr Kinnock accused him of "crossing his fingers and closing his eyes" in vain hopes of a recovery, Mr Major said Labour's own plans would "spell disaster" for the economy and jobs. Britain, he said, had a higher proportion of its population in work than any European Community nation apart from Denmark.

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, said that the government was only partly to blame for the recession but he accused Mr Major of offering complacency rather than leadership. "Tony Blair, the shadow employment secretary, said that the unemployment figures laid bare 'the colossal incompetence of Tory economic mismanagement'. From now until polling day we will remind the people of Britain that the Tories promised there would be no recession and there was that it would be shallow when in fact it was deep; and that a recovery was under way when it wasn't," he said.

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Leading article, page 13
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Prescriptions rise by double inflation rate

By Jeremy Laurance and Jill Sherman

PRESCRIPTION charges will rise on April 1 by 35p, to £3.75, more than double the rate of inflation. It is the fourteenth rise since the government came to power, taking the charge to nearly 19 times its 1979 level of 20p.

Announcing the increase in a Commons written reply, Virginia Bottomley, the health minister, said the new charge was still less than half the average cost of a single prescription item to the NHS. It would raise £240 million towards the total drugs bill of over £2 billion.

Only one in six prescriptions are paid for, compared with

one in three under Labour. Mrs Bottomley added. The rest are dispensed free to people who are exempt from the charges. "No child, no pensioner and no person on income support is affected by the increase," she said.

The rise was condemned by Opposition parties as a tax on the sick. Robin Cook, shadow health spokesman said: "This is more proof that the Tories want a pay-as-you-go health service. If they have money for tax cuts, they must have the money to hold down prescription charges."

Hospital incentives, page 7



Child of the hunt: a young supporter holds a placard at a hunting rally at the Royal Agricultural Showground, Stoneleigh, Warwickshire, yesterday. Thousands demonstrate, page 2; Hunting in the blood, page 12; Letters, page 13

Jury clears builder in IRA case

A BUILDING worker, accused of plotting a mainland bombing campaign with the two IRA suspects who escaped from Brixton prison, walked free from court yesterday after a jury cleared him of the three charges he faced.

The jury deliberated over two days to clear William McKane, aged 25, of conspiring with Nessim Quinlivan and Pearse McAuley. On Wednesday, he was cleared of conspiracy to murder. Sir Charles Tiddy, the former head of Whitebread brewery, His acquittal may now prompt a review by prosecution lawyers on how widely they can draw conspiracy charges in alleged terrorism cases. Within the past year, Scotland Yard and the Crown Prosecution Service has lost three such cases.

Mr McKane, from north London, who was hugged by his waiting wife Stobhan, said outside the Central Criminal Court: "I happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. My wife almost had a nervous breakdown. The family is in tatters."

The prosecution had alleged that Mr McKane was part of a six-man active IRA service unit. But he claimed that he had been duped by McAuley into looking after a Lada car in which police had found explosives.

Full details, page 3

11,000 UN troops are set for Croatia

By Our Foreign Staff

BOUTROS Boutros Ghali, the United Nations secretary-general, yesterday called for the despatch of 11,500 peacekeeping troops to Croatia. But he also made it clear that he had anxieties about the operation. He emphasised that it could only succeed with the full support of all groups in fragmented Yugoslavia.

Cyrus Vance, the UN special envoy, is said to have been particularly concerned that

unity council approves the move early next week as expected, this will be the first time a United Nations force has ever been sent to continental Europe.

Diplomats said that the size of the force had been increased from 10,000 because of fears that the seven-week ceasefire negotiated by Mr Vance, the former American Secretary of State, would not hold.

Dr Boutros Ghali briefed the five permanent members of the security council yesterday and won their support for the plan. Mr Goulding was later due to preside over a meeting of countries which might contribute troops.

The deployment in Croatia would, at a stroke, double the number of UN peacekeepers now on duty around the world. Britain has said it would not provide combat units for the operation, which is expected to cost between \$300 million (£166 million) and \$450 million a year. France is understood to be ready to send 4,000 men.

Croatia wants to have only troops of European origin on its soil. But the United Nations is adamant that the contingent must also draw on soldiers from the Third World.

UN braced, page 9
Diary, page 12
Leading article, page 13

Lloyd's chief attacks slurs

By Philip Webster and Jonathan Prynn

THE government faced calls last night to act over allegations of "structural rotteness" within the Lloyd's insurance market after fresh leaks by Conservative MPs to their Labour opponents apparently designed to bring their worries into the open.

The chairman of Lloyd's made a furious response to the Commons motions tabled by Labour MPs alleging that insiders at Lloyd's had made huge profits at the expense of outside investors. David Coleridge condemned the motions as "an unwarranted slur" and said they were "irresponsible and dangerous".

The government tried to keep at arm's length by emphasising that it had no powers to intervene directly. John Redwood, the corporate affairs minister, spoke to Mr Coleridge yesterday to pass on the allegations presented to him by a delegation of Conservative MPs.

In a radio interview, however, he suggested that they could pursue civil actions, go to the Lloyd's regulator or take any evidence of fraud to law officers of the Serious Fraud Office.

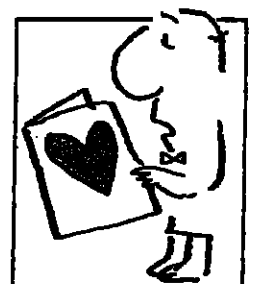
In a fresh twist Brian Sedgemore, Labour MP for Hackney South and Shoreditch, and Marjorie Mowlam, the Opposition's City affairs spokesman, received through the internal Commons mail copies of a speech deeply critical of Lloyd's from Alfred Doll-Steinberg, chairman of one of main action groups representing Lloyd's names, to a Tory backbench meeting on January 28.

A handful of the 60 or so Conservative MPs who are Lloyd's "names" were said by their colleagues yesterday to have made severe losses. According to one Tory source six MPs stood to lose up to £100,000 and another some £250,000.

There was little sympathy among Tory MPs for any colleagues who had leaked their concerns to Labour MPs.

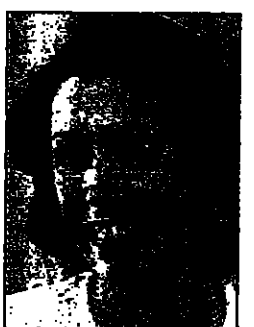
Mr Coleridge said: "The facts are very different to this catalogue of unsubstantiated allegations which represent a quite unwarranted slur on the worldwide reputation of Lloyd's and are harmful to Continued on page 16, col 1

TODAY IN THE TIMES
HEART OF THE MATTER



Valentine's Day is here again, with coded messages flying apace
Life & Times
Pages 6 and 7

RED ROSES



Marilyn Quayle talks about marriage to a vice-president
Life & Times
Page 1

WEEKEND TIMES



Daytrippers ruin a rural retreat for one escaper from the noise and pace of life in the big city
Page 1

Seven die in US floods

At least seven people are feared dead in flooding after the worst storm for 100 years hit California.

The storm threatened to wash away mansions in the exclusive beach community of Malibu, where many film stars and other figures in the entertainment industry live. Page 11

Miners killed

Two miners were killed and six injured when a train carrying workers jackknifed five miles out beneath the North Sea at Westmouth colliery near Sunderland. Page 2

Kashmir siege

Pakistani Kashmiris abandoned their siege of the border with India, beaten back by troops. Page 11

Cancer tests

Cervical cancer screening results vary widely and may be putting women at risk, the National Audit Office says. Page 6

Cuomo plea

Democrats are putting more pressure on Mario Cuomo, New York's governor, to run for the presidency. Page 11

Job seekers

Young Britons base their social life on the pub and spun education and training in favour of the first available job, according to a study by the Economic and Social Research Council. Page 5

Hanson fall

Hanson, the conglomerate run by Lord Hanson and Lord White, reported its first drop in profits in its 29-year history. In the three months to the end of December pre-tax profits fell 6 per cent to £226 million. Page 19

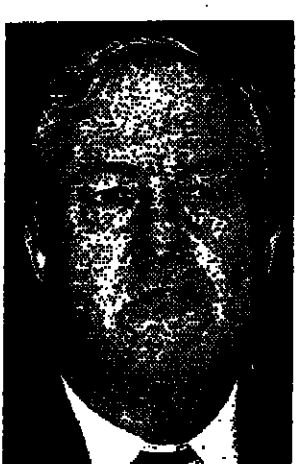
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Dordogne urged to beat Anglo-Saxon conquest

FROM PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS



Le Pen: his party wants to repel foreigners

THE substantial British colony of that corner of a foreign field which is forever the Dordogne will have slept uneasily last night in their converted farmhouses and restored artisans' dwellings. If France's far right-wing National Front party led by Jean-Marie Le Pen has its way, the Anglo-Saxon invasion of this beguiling corner of the country must be stopped before the Dordogne becomes, *quelle horreur*, an outpost of Her Britannic Majesty's empire.

In the joyriding view of Jean-Yves Le Gallou, head of the party's organisation in the Parisian region, the time has come to stop us, and the Dutch and the Germans, from forcing even more French farmers off their ancestral lands. Foreigners who have paid through the

nose for a few hectares of neglected Dordogne meadow and a tumbleweed barn may not see it quite this way, but M Le Gallou says he fears the day will come when the natives find themselves in a minority.

"I have no hatred or xenophobic feelings towards the Dutch, the Anglo-Saxons or even the Saxons," he announced at a press conference in Paris yesterday. "But when 80 per cent of the population of the Dordogne will be English, then it will not quite be the Dordogne even if the English there are very amiable."

M Le Gallou has a point, as anyone who visits the region during British school holidays will quickly appreciate, what with the English-owned restaurants, the thriving Dordogne cricket league, the English-language newspaper advertising the services of trustworthy English workmen for the

conversions. As for the street markets, one does not have to go far for the Guardian-reading classes in their battered, ecologically acceptable Deux Cheveux (the locals prefer large shiny cars, especially if they have just sold an outhouse to the Brits).

On the other hand, one is not aware of the emergence of a Dordogne Liberation Front, and even if one did exist, its main interest would be driving the detested Parisians — easily identified by the "75" numberplates on their immaculate Range Rovers — from this far land. As for M Le Gallou and his party, the National Front's preoccupation is likely to remain the 4 million or so immigrants from France's former colonies in Africa. They are not much in evidence in Dordogne, where many a des. rural res. will be offered to outsiders with cash in the bank and a taste for the good life.

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Thousands demonstrate against bill to ban fox-hunting



McNamara: bill will be debated in House today

NEARLY 16,000 attended a demonstration in support of field sports yesterday, on the eve of the Commons debate of Kevin McNamara's bill to ban fox-hunting.

The demonstration, at the National Agriculture Centre, in Warwickshire, had been organised in less than a week by the British Field Sports Society, the Master of Foxhounds Association and the "Piccadilly Hunt", the group which successfully opposed the last attempt to ban fox hunting in 1949. They calculate that thousands of jobs would be lost in rural areas if the ban goes ahead. They also say that other country sports such as shooting, fishing, terreting and falconry could be banned. Representatives from all those

Hunt supporters are defending their sport against a private member's bill which, they say, threatens thousands of jobs, writes David Young

sports as well as vets, farriers, saddlers, fodder merchants and makers of hunting pink joined the demonstration.

Peter Jones, a full-time huntsman with the Pychley foxhounds from Northamptonshire, said: "Quite simply, if fox hunting is banned I will lose my job and my home. I have been with the Pychley for the past 21 years and been a professional huntsman all my life. If fox hunting is banned, dozens of other jobs in the horse industry would also disappear, so there would be no chance of some-

one like me ever finding work again."

David Guiley, a farrier from Melton Mowbray, in Leicestershire, agreed. "During the winter months hunting provides us with the bulk of our work and, because of hunting, there are other people who keep horses for showjumping and eventing," he said.

Blacksmiths and farriers have estimated that fox hunting provides up to 50 per cent of their work in some areas and, if fox hunting was banned, many staff would have to be laid off during

winter. Walter Allen, a farrier, who is chairman of the Leicestershire branch of the Farriers' National Association, said: "Should there ever be a ban on fox hunting, the number of apprentices 'being trained' would have to be drastically reduced. All the other jobs relating to keeping hunters would also be affected with the resultant knock-on effect in small rural communities where employment, especially for the young, is already difficult."

Although yesterday's demonstration had the air of a country show about it, the serious side will not be lost on MPs discussing today's motion. Two resolutions were sent from the meeting to Parliament asking them to reject

Mr McNamara's bill, and Sir Stephen Hastings, a former Conservative MP and a Master of Foxhounds, said that the fight to keep country sports would continue even if the bill was passed.

Sir Stephen criticised the RSPCA for its support for anti-hunting organisations. He said: "We are here to counter the sanctimonious criticism of those who neither understand our traditions nor indeed the ways of nature, yet are not prepared to take the trouble to find out what is involved."

He said the Animal Liberation Front was "a fully fledged terrorist organisation". □ Supporters of the bill believe that they can muster enough MPs to give it a second reading. The

main hurdle faced is the closure motion, when 100 members have to vote in favour, but MPs from all parties have said that they will give up a Friday campaigning in their constituencies to be in the Commons.

Even if the bill does get a second reading, lack of time will prevent it reaching the statute book before the election. Its backers hope that it will lead to legislation early in the next parliament.

Mr McNamara dismissed claims from opponents that the bill would affect pest control or cost thousands of jobs. It did not affect angling or shooting, he said.

Photograph, page 1
Hunting in the blood, page 12

Rise hits 'a family in every street'

Home repossession reach record 75,000

BY RACHEL KELLY, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

A RECORD total of more than 75,000 homes were repossessed last year, according to figures released yesterday by the Council of Mortgage Lenders. Last year, 75,540 homes were repossessed against 43,890 in 1990.

The figures showed that 275,350 people have loans that are six months or more in arrears and are therefore at risk of repossession this year. That compares to a figure of 159,210 in 1990.

Steven Bell, chief economist at the merchant bank Morgan Grenfell, said: "It is an unprecedented number of repossessions and represents nearly 1 per cent of total mortgages. It means roughly that one family in every street is being repossessed."

The figures do not include repossessions by Lloyds Bank, the Royal Bank of Scotland and the Bank of Scotland, who together with small lenders represent about 7 per cent of the UK mortgage lending market and are not members of the council. Their figures would marginally increase the numbers of repossessions, the council said.

The Council of Mortgage Lenders said that it was impossible to say exactly how many people in arrears would face repossession this year.

One independent study by the housing analyst John Wriglesworth of UBS Phillips & Drew has estimated that there will be 80,000 repossessions this year. He said yesterday he was sticking to that estimate.

"These figures are jolly awful," he said. "The most worrying aspect is the increase in serious arrears cases from 159,210 at the end of 1990 to 275,350 at the end of 1991. The growth in arrears cases has slowed down but

there is a huge backlog of cases that have not been solved. This still points to very high repossessions this year."

He said mortgage lenders "are still managing to save 190,000 people who are more than six months in arrears, even if the other 80,000 get repossessed".

Mr Mark Boleat, director general of the Council of Mortgage Lenders, said that one encouraging aspect was the sharp deceleration in the rate of growth of possessions in the second half of 1991.

Mr Boleat said that the package of measures announced before Christmas combined with the upturn in activity already reported this year is likely to result in a reduction in possessions during 1992.

The record numbers of repossessions had not been caused by irresponsible lending or by borrowers deliberately not paying, Mr Boleat said.

Difficulties were caused by relationship breakdowns, severe loss of income, the slump in the housing market, and unemployment, Mr Boleat said.

● The Leeds Permanent Building Society is to offer homeowners in serious arrears the chance of a capped rate mortgage at 9.99 per

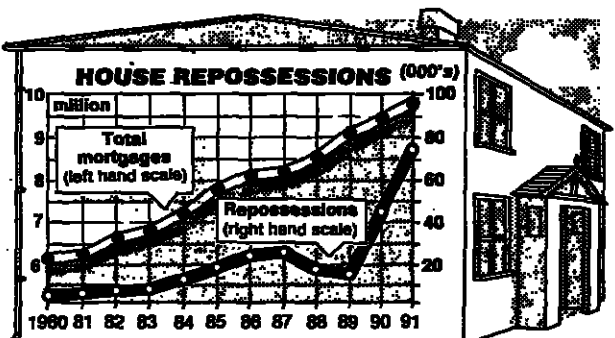
cent on part of their mortgage and an interest-free loan on the rest as part of its mortgage rescue scheme (Lindsay Cook writes).

The fifth largest society has allocated £100 million to the scheme, which will allow people to stay in their homes as owners with manageable payments. The society will work out with the borrowers how much they can afford to pay and fix their payments at that level. It will then take a stake in the property to cover the part of the loan the borrower cannot afford.

The mortgage payments will be fixed for five years so that they cannot rise but will fall if standard mortgage rates fall lower than 9.99 per cent. The value of the property will be established at the outset and again when the owner wants to buy back the part of the property the society owns or wants to move on. The society will then take a share of any profits.

National Westminster Home Loans is offering loans starting at 5 per cent to qualifying customers under its £30 million mortgage rescue scheme. The payments then will increase each year for five years until the standard mortgage rate is reached.

Black Thursday, page 1



Maxwell items go on sale

BY SARAH JANE CHECKLAND, SALEROOM CORRESPONDENT

ROBERT Maxwell's creditors will discover today how many of the thousands of people viewing the contents of the late publisher's London home are serious buyers rather than voyeurs.

Sotheby's has been besieged all week by visitors to its London salerooms taking tentative bounces on the giant double bed (estimate £1,200 to £2,500) and swivelling on the leather executive chairs. Many tried on the baseball hat emblazoned "Guv'nor" (estimate, along with six other hats and coat hangers taken by Maxwell from various hotels, £10 to £20).

The sale follows instructions by the accountants Price Waterhouse, administrators for Maxwell Communication Corporation. To guarantee sales, and recoup as much as they can, all 340 lots are being offered with no minimum prices.

Director murdered in Paris

BY PAUL WILKINSON

FRENCH detectives are investigating the murder of an English businessman in his Paris hotel room. The body of Malcolm Olson, aged 34, director of Eastleigh airport near Southampton, was found on Wednesday by staff at the Meridien Montparnasse hotel in the south of the city where he was attending an aviation conference.

Police reports said Mr Olson, a bachelor, was found naked and kneeling in his bath, bound hand and foot and with sticky tape over his mouth. A tie, believed to be his own, was found pulled tight round his neck. His face was buried in a pillow.

Paris police launched a murder investigation and preliminary reports from an autopsy indicated Mr Olson died of asphyxiation. Some belongings were missing from his room.

A Paris police inspector said: "The Meridien hotel has links with Air France and an aeronautical conference was being held there. Mr Olson checked into the Montparnasse on Monday, but two days later he was found strangled in his hotel room." Officers from the Brigade Criminelle were investigating.

The Foreign Office confirmed that details of Mr Olson's death had been passed by them to his family who are prominent in the Eastleigh area. Mr Olson's father, Godfrey, an estate agent, is Conservative leader of Eastleigh borough council. He and his wife Barbara have two other sons. They were too upset to speak yesterday.

Peter Willis, Mr Olson's former deputy, said: "Everybody is absolutely devastated by his death." John Mills, group personnel director of BAA, the airport's parent company, said: "Malcolm was much respected both locally and throughout the aviation industry."

Mr Olson, who lived in a four-bedroom, £150,000 house at Hamble, on the Solent, was a keen sailor and rally driver.

Two miners killed as train crashes in tunnel under sea

BY PETER DAVENPORT

TWO miners were killed and six injured yesterday when a train carrying workers jacked five miles out beneath the North Sea at Wearmouth colliery near Sunderland.

The train, pulling eight carriages, was derailed as it took 70 men from the bottom of the pit shaft to the coal face out at sea. The front carriage was pushed up against the roof of the tunnel, trapping 20 men.

Last night, rescuers praised the bravery of the miners who risked their lives to help their colleagues in the wreckage. Without their actions the death and injury toll could have been much higher, rescuers said.

Working only by the lights of their helmet lamps and dodging falling rocks, the men used bare hands and their backs to prop up the wrecked carriage before securing chains to a support beam and lifting it.

A British Coal mines rescue team, firemen and paramedics set up emergency drips and administered painkilling injections to the trapped men. The two who died were in the first carriage, with the six who were hurt, three of them with serious spine and chest injuries.

The two dead miners were named as Eric Evans, aged 36, from Penshaw, Tyne and Wear, and Gerard Sumbly, aged 39, of Sunderland.

One of the miners who escaped injury said later: "We were riding along as normal when there was this almighty clattering and we all got shunted along. We had no

warning. The front carriage went up into the roof."

The rescue operation was hampered by the restricted space in the tunnel and the danger of explosions. Firemen could not use cutting equipment to burn through the tangled wreckage and relied on hand-held tools.

Station officer Alan Gash said: "It was like dealing with a road crash 1,000 feet underground. The uninjured miners down there were very brave. They knew exactly what to do and their coolness and help was invaluable throughout the whole operation."

Safety experts from the Mines Inspectorate began a detailed investigation of the accident yesterday. They are concentrating initially on finding out what caused the locomotive pulling the carriages to become derailed.

John Wakeham, the energy secretary, said that safety was paramount in the coal industry. "We need to know what lessons can be learnt from this dreadful incident."

Wearmouth colliery was opened 165 years ago and is one of the most successful of the dwindling North-East coalfields. It produces around one million tonnes of coal a year with a workforce half that of the mid-1980s when it employed 2,000 men.

Miners' union officials yesterday claimed that the pressure for increasing productivity rates throughout the industry was leading to more accidents because of less attention to safety, an allegation firmly rejected by British Coal. David Guy, president of

the Durham branch of the NUM, said: "Workmen can only do so much in the time available and if there are less workmen, less work is being done. As production levels are not suffering one can only conclude that something else must be. We will want to speak to British Coal and the Mines Inspectorate about the accelerating seriousness of incidents in collieries. We are looking for some action."

British Coal insisted, however, that despite a doubling in productivity since 1985-6, the first year after the miners' strike, the overall accident rate had been more than halved.

Yesterday's accident brought to nine the number of deaths in the industry since June 1989.

Child shell suits given fire label

Children's shell suits are to carry fire hazard warning labels, it was announced yesterday. Edward Leigh, consumer affairs minister, has also asked the British Standards Institute to set a limit on the flammability of the shiny, double-layered track suits.

In November, a Glasgow girl aged four died after her shell suit caught fire. The DTI said there were no plans to set safety standards for adults' shell suits.

Officers cleared

A civil jury yesterday rejected allegations that five prison officers beat up a convicted sex offender at Birmingham's Winson Green jail. The High Court jury in London decided that John Watkins, of Gloucester, had not proved his case for assault damages against the Home Office. The five officers are: senior officer David Espie and officers Brian Clarke, Trevor Willets, Alan Earl and Steven Turtur.

Fraud jury out

The jury in the Blue Arrow fraud trial at the Old Bailey was sent to an hotel last night after failing to reach a verdict in a third day of deliberation. The hearing, which has lasted a year and two days, involves five former City advisers to the employment agency Blue Arrow who are accused of secretly buying shares to make an £837 million rights issue in 1987 appear a success.

Mersey beat

Chris Farrow, aged 44, a former area director of London Docklands who led the regeneration of Surrey docks, has been appointed chief executive of the Mersey-side Development Corporation (MDC). He was in the team that created City Airport and the Docklands Light Railway. The MDC was Britain's first urban development corporation.

It's hot! Chances See it..

March 4th Sky Television.



Black Thursday, page 1

Who says the path of true love never runs smoothly?



Unemployed lose their sex drive

BY TIM JONES

SEX has become the latest casualty of the recession, with growing evidence that the trauma of being made unemployed causes people to lose their libidos.

According to Relate marriage guidance counsellors, men in particular lose their self-esteem and with it their sex drive when they are no longer earning. Zelda West-Meads, a counsellor and sex therapist, said: "Men identify strongly with their jobs and one of the effects of their anger at becoming unemployed is a depressed sexual desire.

"Often, they either lose interest in sex, or want to make love but cannot have an erection, or they become impotent. That increases the feeling of depression and worthlessness and affects their relationship because often they do not understand it is the pressure of having no job which is affecting their libido."

She said that middle class marriages fared worse from the effects of unemployment as marriage problems were often cushioned by what money could buy in terms of lifestyle. Mrs West-Meads said that when stress reduced, the erection would return, especially once couples learned to be open and to

share their feelings. Couples are often encouraged to begin rediscovering their lost urges by going to bed to touch and caress without the expectation of sexual intercourse.

Gillian Pont, another counsellor, said: "Some people feel castrated when they lose their job. I see many people whose sex lives have just fallen apart. For men, their jobs are tied up with their macho image."

"Women tend to cope better because they just don't see themselves in terms of their jobs."

'I was an innocent man. I happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time'

Builder cleared of terrorist conspiracy

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Correspondent

WILLIAM McKane, a building worker from north London, yesterday walked free from the Central Criminal Court after being cleared of three terrorist charges linked to Nesson Quinlivan and Pearce McAuley, the IRA suspects who escaped from Brixton prison last year.

Mr McKane, aged 25, was hauled by his wife Siobhan after being cleared of conspiring with Quinlivan and McAuley and others to cause explosions and possession of firearms. On Wednesday the jury cleared him of conspiring with Quinlivan, McAuley and others to murder Sir Charles Tibbitt, former head of the Whitebread brewery, and others in 1990.

The acquittal is the third Irish republican prosecution case lost by Scotland Yard and the Crown Prosecution Service within the past year. The result may prompt prosecution lawyers to consider how widely they can, in future, draw a conspiracy charge in terrorist cases.

After the hearing, Mr McKane, held in custody since November 1990, said: "I am just glad I have been released. I was an innocent man. I don't think the trial should have been brought against me. There were a lot of Irishmen rounded up. I happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time."

Ms McKane, who has a

son aged three, said that the experience had been a nightmare. Her husband said that he could not comment on whether he and his family might sue the police, nor would he give his views on Quinlivan and McAuley. During the trial he told the jury that he had been duped.

His acquittal follows the case last March of Kevin Barry O'Donnell, an agriculture student, cleared of possessing two rifles found in his car. Mr Justice Tucker presided at both the O'Donnell and McKane cases. In October Desmond Ellis, a former television repairman and the first paramilitary suspect to be extradited from the Irish republic to stand trial in Britain, was cleared of taking part in an IRA bombing plot.

In the latest case Mr McKane was alleged to be part of a six-man active service unit including McAuley and Quinlivan. The prosecution claimed that Mr McKane, who lived in a succession of flats and a squat in north London, was an aide who helped to clear away and hide their arsenal of six weapons and nearly 120lbs of Semtex explosive. They had been arrested at Stonehenge a few days after their car was seen fleeing from an attempt on the home of Sir Charles Tibbitt, near Portsmouth.

The prosecution linked Mr McKane to false names used by the active service unit and said his fingerprints were on bags of material containing the arsenal stored in a Lada car behind his home in Kilburn. Other fingerprints were found at flats used by the active service unit. His home included a copy of a pro-IRA newspaper and a calendar celebrating martyrs to the republican cause. There were also traces of explosives.

But Helena Kennedy, QC, for Mr McKane, warned the jury against jumping to conclusions or allowing cynicism to cloud justice. Mr McKane might be a republican but he was not an IRA supporter, she said. He was a member of a close-knit Irish emigrant community which welcomed and helped fellow countrymen.

Mr McKane told the court that he had known McAuley in Ulster and never dreamt he could be an IRA man because he was so noisy and undisciplined. The two men had drunk together and he had also met Quinlivan. Mr McKane said he had visited the men several times.

He had been asked to look after the keys of the Lada and had driven the car but never thought to look in the boot. The car had remained parked for weeks with one window open. His fingerprints were never found on any of the items in the arsenal.



Road to freedom: William McKane leaving court yesterday with wife Siobhan

Unit blamed for 90% of attacks

Stewart Tandler traces the rise and fall of an IRA active service unit that terrorised Britain in summer 1990

WILLIAM McKane was cleared yesterday of aiding an IRA active service unit suspected of murdering Ian Gow, the former cabinet minister, shooting Sir Peter Terry, former governor of Gibraltar, ambushing a soldier in north London, and killing another at Lichfield station.

Police believe one unit was responsible for 90 per cent of IRA attacks in the summer of 1990. They included a bomb in the porch of the Carlton Club in central London; the murder of an army sergeant by a booby-trap bomb in north London; and car bomb attempts on Lord Armstrong of Ilminster and General Sir Anthony Farrar-Hockley.

Police believe that attacks were carried out by a unit of five, led by Nesson Quinlivan and Pearce McAuley, the IRA suspects who fled from Brixton prison last year. Fresh attacks were being planned on victims from a carefully researched hit list, accompanied by addresses, car registrations and photographs, when the unit was halted by a bomber.

The list included Lord Prior of Brampton, Lord Mason of Barnsley and Nicholas Ridley, military officers, executives with Taylor Woodrow and British Nuclear Fuels, two senior civil servants, and David Willets, a Downing Street adviser.

The unit's arsenal included a bomb three times the size of the device that killed 12 Royal Marines at Deal barracks, Kent. Police have described it as a demolition charge. Another device, hidden in a briefcase, could have been exploded from a distance of up to 1,000 yards by radio control.

Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist squad has no proof linking the unit with attacks in the summer of 1990. After the arrest of Quinlivan and McAuley in October 1990, the IRA campaign stopped until February 1991.

After McAuley's arrest, he was found to have a bruise on his shoulder similar to the marks left after firing a rifle. Sir Peter Terry was attacked in his Staffordshire home by a gunman with an automatic rifle.

Police believe that the active service unit began planning operations in March 1990. McAuley, for 18 months a seemingly ill-disciplined Ulster bricklayer,

changed character. The signal was the arrival of Quinlivan. The unit, comprising two other men and a woman, built up a network of false identities, sometimes using the names of dead people to get birth certificates and obtain visitors' passports. Photographs of two unnamed members of the unit, submitted for passports, are held by police. Flats were rented and cars bought.

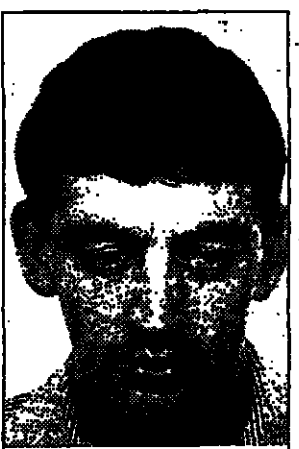
It was one of those cars, a blue Ford Sierra, which finally brought down the unit. Bought for £1,050, it was in such poor shape that the owner said it could not run for 20 minutes without overheating. The unit resprayed it and improved the performance.

On a still night in September 1990, McAuley drove to Hampshire, heading for the home of Sir Charles Tibbitt, a former head of Whitebread and chairman of the William and Mary Tercenary Trust. Unknown to the unit, police had begun monitoring VIPs who might be at risk of IRA attacks. The unit was spotted outside Sir Charles's house and fled.

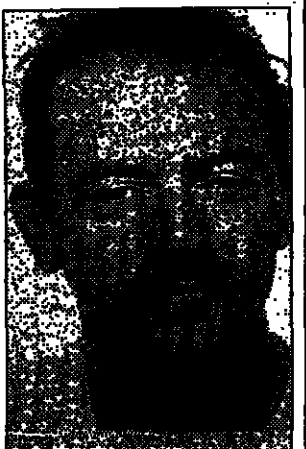
As they sped away, their car number was taken by a dog handler. Yet they went on using the car, whose description had been circulated to every officer in Britain.

Two weeks later, the car was seen parked at Stonehenge and Quinlivan and McAuley were arrested. Their arrest eventually led police to a battered Lada car parked in north London. In the boot was the unit's arsenal.

McAuley and Quinlivan are now thought to be living under cover in the Irish republic.



Quinlivan: his arrival triggered unit's activity



McAuley: previously an unruly bricklayer

Heart pills can increase risk of death

DRUGS that lower cholesterol levels may increase rather than reduce the overall risk of dying, and their use should be reduced, researchers say today.

The number of British patients taking the drugs is growing rapidly, but there is no long-term proof that they have beneficial effects, doctors say in the *British Medical Journal*.

Their call for a moratorium on prescribing could profoundly affect the attitudes of general practitioners towards the drugs and may also influence government health policies. It is also likely to cause consternation in the pharmaceutical industry.

Prescriptions for cholesterol-lowering drugs have tripled in the past few years because GPs have been persuaded that high levels of blood cholesterol are an important risk factor for heart attacks. About 58,000 patients currently receive the

Researchers have found dangers in cholesterol-lowering drugs and want their use cut, Thomson Prentice reports

therapy, and many high street pharmacists now offer "instant" blood cholesterol tests.

Much wider use of the drugs is likely because the health department's current contract with GPs encourages such preventive measures. Up to a third of the British population would be candidates for such therapy under some proposed prescribing guidelines.

Researchers at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine say in the journal: "Before the use of such drugs becomes even more widespread there should be a serious consideration of whether this is a sensible treatment policy."

The researchers are most concerned about the use of the drugs as a preventive

measure in patients who have not had a heart attack or who do not have a high risk of severe inherited heart disease.

The researchers, led by George Davey Smith, lecturer in epidemiology at the school, have analysed international studies of the drugs' effects. They conclude that while heart disease deaths have been reduced, deaths from non-coronary causes have gone up.

"This balances the decrease in heart attack deaths. If anything, overall death rates have been increased among those taking the drugs," the researchers say. "The use of such drugs in patients without a markedly elevated risk of coronary disease should await

clear demonstration that they produce an overall benefit."

The authors of the report do not attempt to explain a direct link between the drugs and deaths from non-coronary causes, such as cancer. But, they say, it does not exist in studies of patients whose cholesterol levels have been reduced by changes in diet. One conclusion to be drawn is that a dietary approach is safe, while drug therapy is not.

Michael O'Connor, director of the Coronary Prevention Group, said: "We welcome this report. There is a danger that massive promotion by drug companies will lead to people being prescribed drugs they don't need. These drugs are likely to have an important role for those few people who are at very high risk of heart disease and who have not been able to reduce their cholesterol levels by changing their diet."

Average reading age falls

By John O'Leary, Education Correspondent

RESEARCH designed to settle the controversy over the teaching of reading in primary schools has uncovered a significant decline in standards over the past four years. The National Foundation for Educational Research found that the reading ability of the average eight-year-old had dropped, although standards in some schools had risen.

The results, published yesterday, confirm the findings of a survey conducted by the foundation for the education department last year. That was dismissed by critics as unreliable because it was based on old tests. The more modern methods used in compiling the new report, *Reading in Recession*, should make it more credible.

The researchers tested pupils in a representative sample of schools in England and Wales and revisited 24 schools used in a parallel exercise four years ago. Head teachers were asked for their views, although only a quarter said they had noticed a decline in standards.

Tom Gorman, one of the authors of the report, said that the results of three sets of research suggested a decline in the average reading age of at least three months. "That is a conservative estimate, although it is too soon to tell whether or not there is a downward trend," he said.

Nine of the 24 schools tested for a second time showed an increase in reading scores. All were in rural areas or middle class suburbs, and six were church schools. Of the 15 where standards had fallen, seven were in large conurbations or industrial areas. The overall decline was put at between four and seven percentage points.

Irish abortion row grows

By Edward Gorman, Ireland Correspondent

THE Irish attorney-general yesterday stepped in to try to silence a growing controversy over an attempt by the state to stop a 14-year-old rape victim having an abortion.

In a statement, Harry Whelehan said that, while judgment in the case, which was held in camera, was pending, further publicity would be in contempt and a source of distress to those involved. It should cease.

"No doubt when the judge is delivering his judgment, he will (while protecting the identity of the parties) set out the essential facts and issues

which will govern his decision," he said.

"What is needed now pending judgment, is respect for the order of the court and consideration for those who are personally affected by these proceedings."

Mr Whelehan's attempt to quell the controversy was ignored as the dispute over the right to abortion in Ireland resurfaced. Many sympathise with the teenage girl despite their hatred of abortion.

Proinias De Rossa, leader of the Workers' party, attempted to raise the case in the Dáil. He said, after the

attorney-general's statement, that he had no qualms about discussing what he called a "quite intolerable situation".

His call for an emergency debate to discuss the implications of the case for rape victims who become pregnant, for families of victims and for the freedom of the press and information, was ruled out of order by the speaker who said the matter was sub judice.

The case is the first test of the ban, which was written into the republic's constitution after a divisive referendum in 1983.

Libel case editor defends her role

FRANKIE McGowan, former editor of *New Woman*, told the Sara Keays libel trial jury in the High Court yesterday that the magazine never set out to condemn or ridicule the people it wrote about. It would have been wholly against her philosophy as a woman and that of the magazine, she said.

Miss Keays, aged 44, of Marksbury, near Bath, Avon, is suing the magazine over a 1989 article which she says accused her of being a kiss-and-tell bimbo who wrote her book to make money and to cause Cecil Parkinson maximum embarrassment. She says that she wrote the book to defend her reputation.

Miss McGowan, now a consultant editor and freelance writer, told Desmond Byrne, QC, for the defence: "The last thing in the world that I wanted to do in any feature or any issue of the magazine was denigrate women. That would have been a pointless exercise and I would probably have been removed as editor if I did it."

The business partner who helped Sara Keays to publish her book about her affair with Mr Parkinson said that Miss Keays's "great desire" was to have her side of the story break during the 1985 Conservative party conference.

Graham Lea, who worked with Miss Keays on *A Question of Judgement*, said that he was opposed to her deal with Robert Maxwell to have the book serialised in the *Daily Mirror* during the week of the conference. Giving evidence for *New Woman* magazine, he said he thought that it was "rather a foolish deal" as the price agreed was too low and the serialisation of the most interesting parts would make people less inclined to buy the book.

Mr Lea said that his business partnership with Miss Keays ended at the end of 1985 on very acrimonious terms.

Asked by John Previc, QC, for Miss Keays, whether he bore her a grudge, Mr Lea replied: "That's true, yes. I haven't expressed it other than in this courtroom." He said he had believed that the book would make £2 million and that he had regarded it as a golden opportunity.

The trial continues today.

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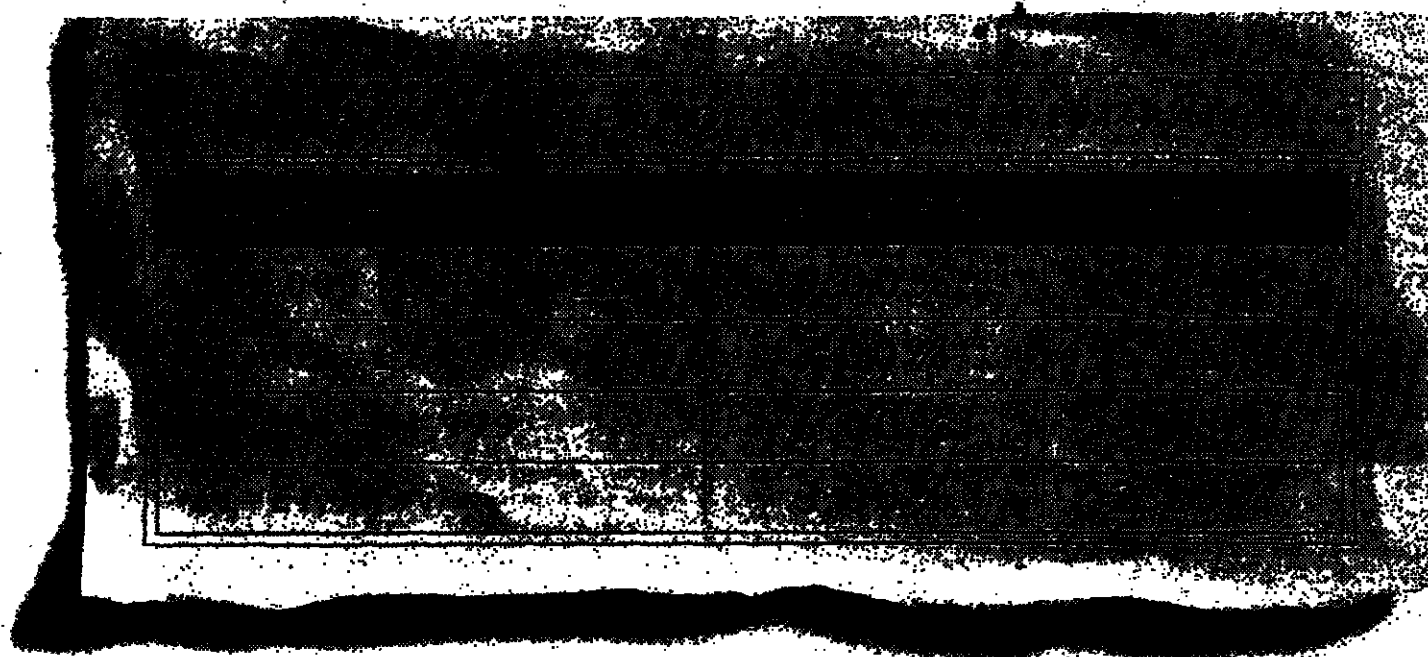
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Teen
shu
train
seek

Politicians
score a
low vote

Posing of
Pickles
criticised

Teenagers shun job training to seek work

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

OLD habits die hard, even for the modern teenager. Young Britons base their social life on the pub and spurn education and training for the first available job, according to a three-year study by the Economic and Social Research Council.

Academics from six universities charted the influences on 4,800 young people between the ages of 16 and 19, choosing Swindon, Kirk-

caldy, Liverpool and Sheffield as a proxy for the nation. Their report, published yesterday, paints a picture of a young generation with up-to-date concerns but traditional lifestyles.

By the age of 16, most are going to pubs and looking for a job. Even at 20, two thirds are still living at their parents' home. Girls leave home in their teens in larger numbers than boys, mainly to marry or cohabit.

Young people of both sexes were suspicious of training programmes, feeling that employers would exploit them. The researchers conclude that the government's goal of keeping all young people in education and training beyond 16 is unlikely to be achieved in the foreseeable future because of the attraction of full-time jobs among the working class.

Politicians score a low vote

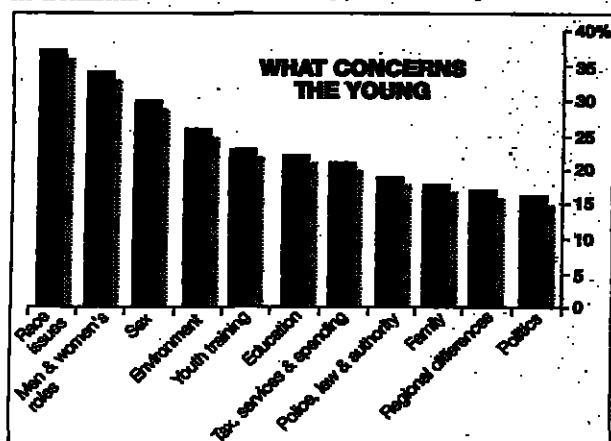
ALTHOUGH almost all of the 4,800 young people in the survey said that they intended to vote, party politics remained firmly at the bottom of their list of interests (John O'Leary writes).

Professor John Bynner, the City University academic who co-ordinated the research, said: "For teenagers, party politics has just about as much relevance as grand opera. Yet they have passionate views on race, sex and the environment."

He said that a much higher proportion of young people in Germany and other European countries were interested in politics. Only Britons taking A-level courses approached German levels of political awareness. "It may be that there is a healthy cynicism about party politics among sixth formers, but the main cause of apathy is political illiteracy, which is a question of education."

Only 16 per cent of the teenagers had strong feelings about politicians or political parties. Few wanted to pay more taxes but they did want extra public spending and increased social security benefits.

Race was the subject of most concern to teenagers in the survey, followed by equal opportunities, sex and the environment.



Posing of Pickles criticised

THE behaviour of a judge who interrupted a trial to pose for photographers and television cameras in a Second World War flying jacket was criticised by a fellow judge yesterday.

The incident, involving Judge James Pickles, now retired, happened at Bradford county court last April when he was hearing a claim for damages by one motorist against another. When the case resumed two months later Judge Pickles rejected the claim and awarded £50 damages to the other driver.

Yesterday Judge Charlesworth, sitting at the same court, refused the unsuccessful plaintiff, a Doncaster solicitor and law lecturer, leave to appeal, but expressed sympathy for him. He admitted that, from what he knew of the facts of the road accident, he might have reached a different conclusion to Judge Pickles, but Judge Pickles had seen and heard the witnesses.

Judge Charlesworth said: "The circumstances which give rise to the greatest disquiet in respect to the conduct of the case are that, I am told by both sides, on the day of the first hearing the judge adjourned early. He 'paraded up and down the road outside the court in some sort of flying jacket as he had just announced his retirement'. But the incident was simply an unfortunate diversion. It did not mean that the judge had not given the case proper attention."

David Roy Crystal-Kirk, the plaintiff, was ordered to pay the costs of his unsuccessful application.

Rebuke for 'race' remark

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A PART-TIME judge accused of making a racist remark during the trial of a Nigerian woman has been cautioned, the Lord Chancellor's Department said yesterday. David Spens allegedly said about the woman, found guilty of credit card fraud: "I want to know more about her, as this type of crime is far too prevalent among the Nigerian community."

The case was brought to the attention of Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, by the Society of Black Lawyers, which demanded disciplinary action. A spokeswoman for Lord Mackay said: "Mr Spens has been cautioned not to make such remarks in the future."

Mr Spens, a barrister who prosecutes regularly at the Central Criminal Court, London, was sitting as a recently appointed assistant recorder at Middlesex crown court on September 10.

In a letter to Lord Mackay, the Society of Black Lawyers said: "We feel strongly that such racist comments in the courtroom should be censured in the strongest possible terms by your department and where necessary disciplinary action should be taken." The society also called on the Law Society yesterday to introduce measures to combat racism and to ensure equal opportunities for black lawyers, including a 10 per cent target of trainees, assistant solicitors and partners from ethnic minority groups.

Romance arrives by parachute

BY LOUISE HIDALGO

JUTTING jaws, trim behinds, steely blue eyes, with a hint of thoughtfulness. The six finalists in the search for Britain's most romantic man at the Dorchester Hotel, London, yesterday, may not have looked the staple stuff of romantic fiction. But the lengths to which they had gone to win their ladies' affections were.

The winner, Mark Duch, a poll tax inspector aged 29 from Blackpool, braved vertigo to propose by parachute at 200ft.

Brian, aged 24, from Edinburgh, daubed his truck with the words "Will you marry me?" and reinforced his message with a megaphone. Allan, a dustman aged 51, from Leicester, donned a tutu and tights to win his ballerina wife.

But it was Mark's sustained devotion, the daily breakfast in bed, the hot water bottles and the household chores, which triumphed over the 2,600 breathless and bodice-stirring entries.



True love: Mark wins Sharon with breakfast in bed and hot water bottles

St Valentine stirs men's passion

BY ALICE THOMSON

THE Italian man may make the most passionate lover, the French man may take women to the most expensive restaurant, but when it comes to Valentine's day, British men surpass themselves.

They spend more on cards, flowers and chocolates on Valentine's day than any other country in Europe and the recession does not seem to have made any difference.

It starts on Valentine's eve, when thousands of British men leave their offices at lunchtime, often prompted by their secretaries and female colleagues, and head for the nearest chocolate shops, florists or new-sagents.

Last year, the Royal Mail delivered ten million more letters on Valentine's day. David Lane, general manager, said: "I think Valentine's day is so popular in Britain because men like the anonymity of the post, which keeps their identity secret and adds to the mystery and romance of their Valentine's message. Judging from the amount of

extra mail we have already received, it is as popular as ever."

More than two thirds of men under 35 also buy a present, according to a survey carried out by Nielsen Consumer Research. The British man is conservative and most tend to stick to flowers, chocolates or lingerie. The British spend an extra £21 million on flowers and £70 million on chocolates in February.

At Knickerbox's flagship store in Broadgate, central London, Martine Schaffer, retail operations co-ordinator, was helping men to choose lingerie. "We have quadrupled our sales today and 90 per cent of our customers have been men. They are often very nervous and embarrassed so we help them to work out the right size," she said.

Valentine was a Bishop of Terni who was martyred at Rome in the year 270 but he is now omitted from the Roman Catholic calendar of saints' days.

Philip Howard, page 12 L&T section, pages 6 and 7

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Flaws found in smear test system

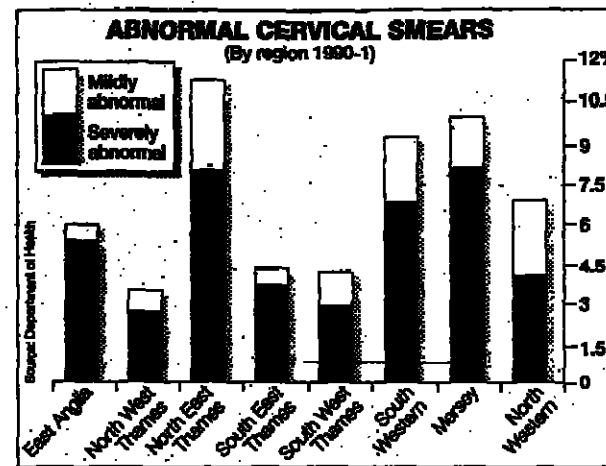
Cancer checks 'miss danger'

By JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH SERVICES
CORRESPONDENT

SERIOUS shortcomings in the cervical cancer screening programme that are causing wide variations in the proportion of "abnormal" smear test results may be putting women at risk, the National Audit Office says today.

In North West Thames, 3.5 per cent of all smears were recorded as abnormal in 1990-1 compared with 11 per cent in neighbouring North East Thames and more than 9 per cent in South Western and Mersey. The differences cannot be explained by variations in the incidence of cervical cancer and are likely to be because of differences in interpretation, the report says. But where too few smears are classified abnormal, cancers may be missed and where there are too many, women may suffer unnecessary anxiety and potentially damaging treatment.

The audit office says, in *Cervical and Breast Screening in England*, that guidance on taking smears is not followed universally. Laboratories do not agree on the interpretation of smears and there are no benchmarks against which they can compare their results. There is no agreement among doctors on



the best way to deal with women with abnormalities. In many cases, a mildly abnormal cervix will return to normal naturally but a cautious doctor might opt for treatment which carries a risk, albeit small, of causing infertility.

However, the report says that the cervical and breast screening programmes have been successful in encouraging more women to attend. By 1991, 74 per cent of women aged 20 to 64 had had a cervical smear test in the past five years, up from 43 per cent in 1989, largely because new payments for GPs who met screening targets were introduced under their new contract in 1990.

More than 70 per cent of women invited for breast screening have accepted and health authorities are on target to contact all eligible women — aged 55 to 64 — by 1993.

But the quality of the two screening programmes contrast sharply, the report says. The emphasis given to quality assurance is "a great strength of the breast screening programme" where national standards have been set — and met — and are being adopted in Europe.

Quality assurance in cervical screening is haphazard. In Mersey, where the level of abnormal results ranged from nil to 18 per cent, three of the five districts had classi-

fied a wide range of smears as abnormal when they were not. One district reported all abnormal smears as severely abnormal.

Laboratories are required to have their work checked by an external assessor but two of three regions visited by the audit office were not doing so. They are also required to have fail-safe systems to check that all women with abnormal smears are followed up, after scandals in which women have died because their cancer was not treated while their test results lay on file. But one out of six districts visited did not have such a system and in three more it was not formally documented.

The report says that prompt investigation and treatment are important to improve effectiveness and to minimise women's anxiety but it found waiting times ranged up to 14 weeks.

Elaine Farmer, chairman of the National Co-ordinating Network for Cervical Cancer Screening, said the service had achieved a "wonderful turnaround" since the 1980s by increasing the number of women screened and attracting a greater proportion of older women. "Now we have to get on and ensure the quality," she said.

Health, L & T Section, page 5

Workers to picket Todd HQ

By TIM JONES

FOR Ron Todd, who has masterminded many a stoppage in the past, it is not much of a farewell present. Mr Todd, who retires next month as general secretary of Britain's biggest union, the transport workers, may have to cross a picket line on Tuesday to reach his office.

Union staff at Smith Square, central London, concerned about the effect of mounting financial losses and a decision to call in an American management consultancy to report on how the organisation can be better run, have voted by 509 to 203 to go on strike. Unless they receive guarantees on job security, better working conditions and retirement payments in line with those given to executives, they have threatened further stoppages.

The strike and its attendant publicity could prove embarrassing to Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, who has included Bill Morris, the union's general secretary-elect, in his "leader's committee" to oversee Labour's election campaign.

The union, which has a cumulative debt of about £2 million and was recently losing about £1 million a month, has agreed voluntary early retirement terms for 100 officers and 150 support staff. One complaint is that the terms for officers are about £50,000, compared with £30,000 for long-serving staff members. The union has told staff that there will be no compulsory redundancies.



Bring out your dead: Paul MacPhail, an Edinburgh tourist guide, dressed as a 17th century 'fole clemmer', who collected the bodies of plague victims. The beak of the mask contained a mixture of herbs and flowers thought to prevent plague. Mr MacPhail was publicising plans to restore a church on the Royal Mile as a local history centre.

Lockerbie suspects 'want trial'

Two Libyans accused by the United States and Britain of the 1988 Pan Am bombing over Lockerbie are anxious for a public trial, a British solicitor who interviewed them said yesterday.

Stephen Mitchell, who is advising a Libyan lawyer on international law, said the men were "very, very anxious" for the affair to be over. "They want a public trial which will give them the opportunity to prove they are not guilty."

Mr Mitchell saw Abdel Basset Ali Al-Megrahi and Lamen Khalifa Fhimian on Tuesday after a former CIA official said they were dead.

Ivanchuk wins chess contest

Vassily Ivanchuk, the Ukrainian grandmaster and world number three, won the Melody Amber semi-rapid chess tournament and \$100,000 (£60,000) in Roquebrune Cap Martin, southeast France. He was half a point ahead of Viswanathan Anand of India, who unexpectedly lost to Bent Larsen of Denmark, who finished last.

Results: Vassily Ivanchuk (Commonwealth of Independent States), 14 points out of 22; Viswanathan Anand (India) 13.5; Anatoly Karpov (CIS), Viktor Korchnoi (Switzerland), Ljubomir Ljubojevic (Yugoslavia) 12.5; Michael Adams (Britain), Yasser Seirawan (USA) 11; Jeroen Piket (The Netherlands), Lev Polugaevsky (CIS) 10; Judit Polgar (Hungary), Jon Speelman (Britain) 8.5; Bent Larsen (Denmark) 8.

Torturer jailed

Colin Morton, aged 35, of Bromley, Kent, who tortured and robbed a taxi driver at his flat, was sent to prison for 20 years for attempted murder, wounding, robbery and firearms offences. Diane Oiler, aged 28, a friend of the cab driver, received two years with 12 months suspended for conspiracy to burgle.

Clamp victory

A shop worker, Maureen Cooper, aged 44, of Luton, Bedfordshire, was awarded £350 damages against a wheelchairing company for unlawful interference with her goods after it refused to release her car for four hours, even though it displayed a car park pass.

Father dies

Tom Houghton, aged 23, whose wife and two daughters were killed in a house fire at Laindon, Essex, on Monday, died in hospital from burns and injuries.

Road duel

A car forced another off the M11 near Stansted, Essex, tipping it over, after the drivers exchanged aggressive gestures. Two people in the second car were slightly hurt.

Fishy affair

A feud over scarce ragworm fishing bait is being blamed for damage caused to a parked car belonging to a bait supplier from the mainland as he searched a river bank on the Isle of Wight.

Whitehall red tape stifles money for technology

PROSPECTIVE beneficiaries of the extra £16 million for innovation announced this week by the trade and industry department are viewing it as more of a public relations exercise than a genuine pledge to encourage advances in technology. Critics claim that many of the schemes supported by the department are subject to so much bureaucracy that it is surprising that any of the money on offer is spent.

One company with a cautionary tale is Natural Technology of Wargrave, Berkshire, set up in 1989 by David Price and Julian Vincent. In May last year, the company won the first Prince of Wales award for environmental innovation with a device that pulls choking weeds from waterways.

Almost 12 months later, the company is £50,000 out of pocket and struggling to keep the project alive. In January last year, it had sought £140,000 under the DIT Environmental Management Options Scheme (Demos) which, with the Environmental Technology Innovation Scheme (Etis), forms the £20 million environmental research initiative launched in 1990.

The scheme covers half of the costs of a project, and organisations including the National Rivers Authority offered £50,000 worth of help, leaving the company to find the other £20,000. The money was needed for trials, planned for last summer, when the weeds were in bloom.

Mr Price said: "We were told if we did our own trials we would be ineligible for the grant." Over the next nine months, government officials encouraged the firm to submit a detailed proposal and finally agreed to a meeting in August.

Mr Price was told in September that the application had been rejected for falling outside Demos's guidelines. According to the latest government figures, 402 applications have been made to Demos and 150 were invited to a second stage. Only four have been approved and just over a quarter of the scheme's £4 million

spent. Nearly 290 applications have been made to Etis, of which 120 have been invited to submit more detailed proposals. Only five projects have been backed to a value of £1.4 million, or less than a third of the funds allocated.

The Textile Finishers' Association in Manchester is one of the lucky ones but still has some complaints. Barry Hazel, the association's director, said: "We asked which project we should go for and they said Etis. Four to five months later they said we should have applied for Demos. It took 15 months for the grant to come through. Finally we threatened to have questions asked in Parliament about how much was being spent on administration and how much on research."

Jacqueline Senker, of the Science Policy Research Unit, believes that such experiences taint the department's initiatives. After interviewing biotechnology, ceramics and pharmaceuticals firms about the department's initiatives, she found "very little enthusiasm among any of them".

Science
L & T Section, page 8

BY JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

BY NICHOLAS WOOD AND PETER MULLIGAN

Parliament today
Commons (9.30): Private member's bill: Wild Mammals (Protection) Bill, second reading.
Lords (11): Competition and Service (Utilities) Bill, Prison Security Bill and Licensing (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill, second readings.

BY JAMIE DETTMER

BY DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

The main business in the Lords is expected to be: Monday: Local Government Finance Bill, report, first day. Tuesday: Local Government Finance Bill, report, second day. Charities Bill, report, second day. Wednesday: Debates on research and development in the NHS and on the public library service. Thursday: Local Government Finance Bill, report, third day. Friday: Further and Higher Education (Scotland) Bill and Civil Rights (Disabled Persons) (No 2) Bill, second reading.

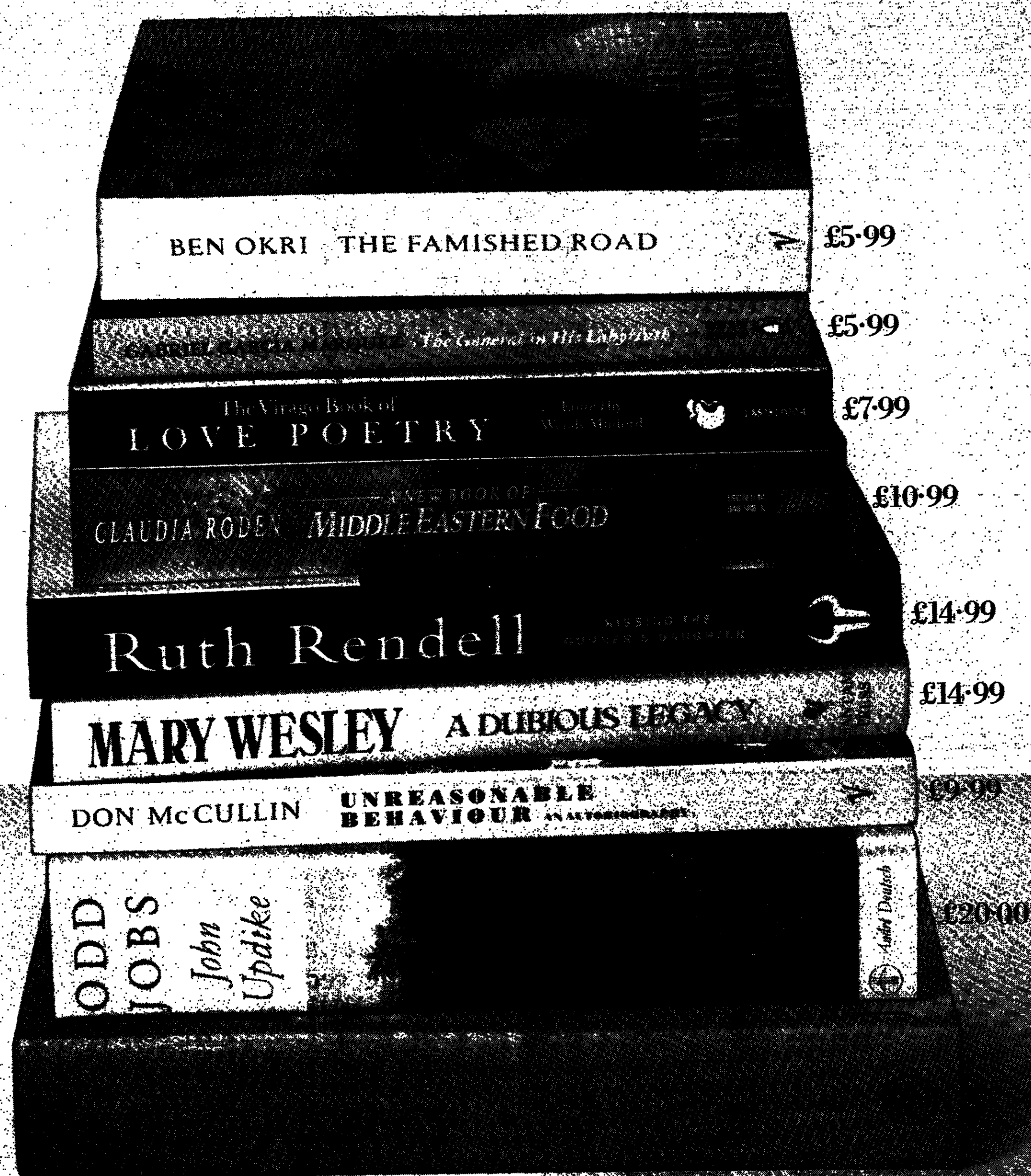
BY NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

In the Commons, Jonathan Aitken, Tory MP for Thanet South, suggested that Mr Cook's act of self denial should apply to Welsh MPs if Labour were to propose an assembly there — a dig at Mr Kinnock's credentials as MP for Islwyn. Mr Major said he would be happy to take up Mr Aitken's idea of a shadow cabinet training scheme.

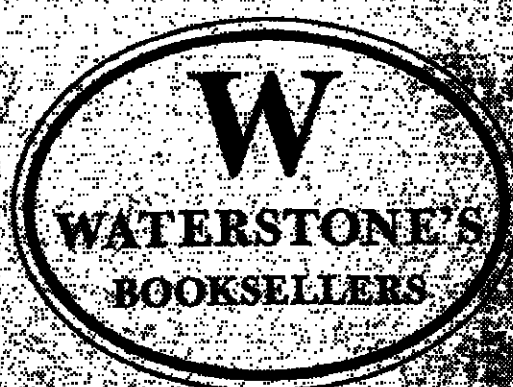


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UN powers braced to send peace troops to Croatia

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK AND TIM JUDAH IN BELGRADE

THE United Nations secretary-general yesterday recommended the deployment of the first UN peacekeeping force on the mainland of Europe, a larger than expected contingent of 11,500 "blue helmets" to police three Serb enclaves inside Croatia.

Boutros Boutros Ghali made the historic decision on the advice of Cyrus Vance, his special envoy to Yugoslavia, after heavy pressure from European countries fearful that the current ceasefire in Croatia might soon break down.

Dr Boutros Ghali made clear that he had some trepidation about sending peacekeepers to Croatia. In a statement, he said: "The secretary-general is of course conscious that there remains a number of unanswered questions concerning this operation and feels strongly that the success of the operation is predicated upon the full co-operation and support of all the parties in Yugoslavia."

The only opposition to the UN deployment came from the self-proclaimed Republic of Serbian Krajina. "It's crazy," Lazar Macura, Krajina's information minister, said. "UN troops cannot come where they are not welcome. This is a dangerous move."

Mr Macura, speaking in a telephone interview from Knin, the capital of the Serb-ruled enclave of Croatia, insisted that the government of Milan Babic could not be ignored. He vowed that local troops would not give up their arms. "We are used to taking guns from our enemies, not giving them up," he said.

In Belgrade, Mihailo Markovic, a close aide to President Milosevic of Ser-

bia, said he thought that Krajina's resistance to the UN plan was as good as over. "Mr Babic has only a few days of power left," he said, "at best a couple of weeks."

The UN Security Council, which is due to begin talks on the secretary-general's proposal today, is expected to vote overwhelmingly early next week to authorise the deployment. The full UN force of 11,500 soldiers and 500 police officers will then be deployed within a month to create UN Protected Areas in the Serb enclaves of Krajina and eastern and western Slavonia.

The pro-Serbian Yugoslav national army will withdraw from those areas, and the UN will preserve the existing civilian government, releasing the ethnic composition of the local population until agreement is reached at a Conference on Yugoslavia on the future shape of the country.

Western diplomats said the military contingent had been expanded from 10,000 to 11,500 because of fears about the fragile ceasefire in Croatia. Marrack Goulding, who heads the UN peacekeeping mission, is said to be "very nervous" about the operation, fearing that it could lead to a repeat of the disastrous UN involvement in the Congo in the early 1960s, or leave UN peacekeepers stranded in a battle zone as has occurred in Lebanon. At the moment there are only 50 UN military liaison officers in the former Yugoslav territory, but their numbers will shortly be increased to 75.

Croatia had requested that the 11,500 UN peacekeepers come from the same region or

a similar climate in an attempt to obtain a force made up of Europeans and Canadians thought to be sympathetic to its cause. But the United Nations is insisting on the customary "geographical balance" in the make-up of the force, ensuring that troops from the Third World are sent to keep the peace on the European continent, the first such deployment in the West since the founding of the United Nations at the end of the second world war.

Unlike other European countries, Britain has said it will not provide combat troops for the operation. France, however, is said to have offered up to 4,000 men.

Mr Vance is said to have believed for weeks that the ceasefire in Yugoslavia could unravel if the UN did not put in forces, while Mr Goulding was more concerned about the possibility of plunging UN troops into a quagmire.

"There is no risk-free strategy for the United Nations," a senior Western envoy said. "It's a gamble either way."

Support for the operation from the Serbs and the Croats is less than unequivocal. In his latest letter to the UN, President Tudjman of Croatia reiterated his acceptance of the UN plan, but said that he regarded the key question of the maintenance of public law and order in the UN Protected Areas as a "technical question". UN officials have decided to take him at his word, ignoring his caveats in the hope that his supporters, particularly Germany, can keep him in line.

Diary, page 12
Leading article, page 13

Yugoslavia and Ulster put army cuts to test

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN is faced with the challenge of deploying up to 1,500 men in Yugoslavia as United Nations peacekeepers at a time when 2,500 more soldiers have had to be sent to Northern Ireland.

The sudden surge in military commitments has raised doubts about government plans to reduce the number of infantry battalions from 56 to 38 under the *Options for Change* defence cuts. Although the cuts have not yet been implemented, the extra military demands have provided critics of the proposals with new ammunition.

The expected formal request for British troops to join the UN force will pose a dilemma for the government. The strain on manpower caused by deployment of two infantry battalions and a gunner regiment to Northern Ireland is bound to influence the decision on how many soldiers should be sent to Yu-

goslavia. There is no built-in reserve to cover emergencies such as in Northern Ireland and Yugoslavia.

The government has two options: either to send a self-supporting battalion group of about 1,500 men which could be deployed in one area of Croatia under the aegis of the UN, but acting as a separate British unit; or to send 1,000 to 1,500 men to provide logistic support, including signals, communications and medical services, who could be deployed in different United Nations peacekeeping areas under different national commands.

The first option will be regarded by the government as a high-risk mission, because the British battalion group would be a single fighting force, which could be vulnerable to indiscriminate shell or sniper fire. The main advantage is that it would be under British command, and it

could be withdrawn if the government decided to pull out of the UN commitment.

However, committing a tailor-made force to a long-term peacekeeping role will affect the rest of the army. In practice, assigning one battalion to a particular task means tying up at least four other battalions because of the need to train the next units in line and to retrain soldiers returning from Yugoslavia.

Although the second option involves a lower risk, it would mean that Britain would accept an equally low profile in a UN force, which would be seen as a litmus test for a UN peacekeeping role in other European hotspots. The French have made it clear they are prepared to send 4,000 soldiers to Yugoslavia. That might encourage Britain to try to match the French, not in manpower but in combat effectiveness.

Ministers previously have discounted sending combat troops to Yugoslavia. The government may not want to be seen to be upstaged by the French, however, and the option of sending a full battalion group of 1,500 soldiers is under consideration as one of several contingency plans drawn up by the defence ministry. With an election looming, ministers may try to play down the strain on manpower by talking of Yugoslavia as a short-term commitment. It is widely recognised, however, that once UN peacekeepers have arrived in Yugoslavia, they will be there for a long time.



Infernal noise has nuns on the run

FROM PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

For almost a thousand years, the Benedictine nuns of the abbey of Notre Dame du Pré have prayed and meditated in the tranquility of their retreat on the banks of the River Touques in Lisieux.

Even the bombardment of the abbey during the war-time battle for Normandy, when 20 of the nuns were killed, did not shake the sisters' faith that their destiny still lay on the spot where St Therese had made her first communion.

But the din of modern life has finally proved too much for the Benedictines and they have decided to move to new quarters deeper in the Normandy countryside.

By the end of next year, they hope to be installed in Valmont abbey, a mere 400 years old and greatly run down, but safely out of earshot of the 20th century and its works.

The problem with Lisieux, the mother superior told *Le Figaro*, was that the town had grown all around the abbey, gradually enveloping it in the daily grind of traffic. "We are now stuck between the main Paris-Caen road and the railway that links Caen and Cherbourg with the capital," she said. "There are traffic lights on the crossroads near us, which means constant stopping and starting, and the trains run through

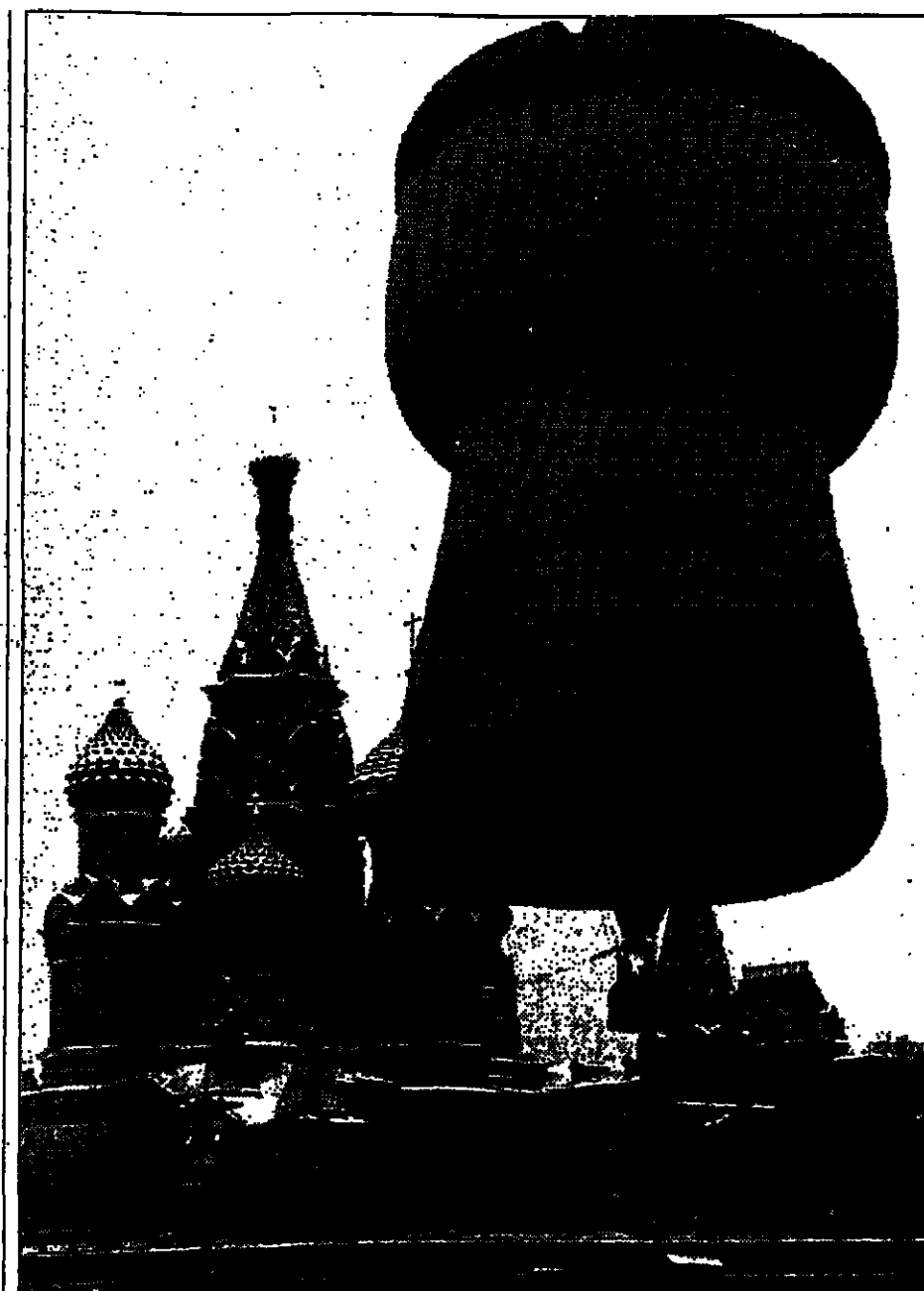
our grounds only a hundred yards from the house."

Not the ideal conditions for an order that the Pope had exhorted, during his visit to Lisieux in 1980, to hold fast to its traditions of "silence and repose in a civilisation ever more mobile and more clamorous". The Pope's parting message, the mother superior recalls, was to resist the rude impact of this outside world at all costs: there was greater need than ever for *zones de silence*.

As the difficulties were simply too great for the abbey to overcome, especially since the resident community had dwindled

from about 60 nuns to 32. "This is obviously due in part to a crisis of faith," the abbess acknowledged, "but our convent's position is not going to move young girls to take the veil and begin a life of solitude and silence."

By a stroke of fate, which the nuns of Lisieux attribute to the power of prayer, a wealthy Roman Catholic family recently offered the community a new home in Valmont. "A beautiful place that breathes serenity and silence... and available on very good financial terms," the abbess confided, taking the opportunity to say that any help *Le Figaro* readers might be able to offer would be welcome.



Rising trend: a hot-air balloon in the shape of a champagne cork taking off beside St Basil's cathedral in Red Square, Moscow in an advertising campaign.

Sweden abandons neutral stance

FROM REUTER IN STOCKHOLM

CARL Bildt, who next week becomes the first Conservative Swedish prime minister to visit America, said that his country's foreign and security policies could no longer be called neutral.

Sweden, officially non-aligned in peace and neutral in war since the early 19th century, was interested now in co-operating with other countries, Mr Bildt said. "Europe is different; there are no longer two confronting and competing military blocs," he added. "We are changing our policy."

His centre-right coalition

took over the government from the Social Democrats after a general election last September. The word neutrality, he said, "no longer applies as an overall description of the foreign and security policies that we intend to pursue in Europe in the 1990s. We are outside military alliances, yes, but in contrast to the past, when we tended to stay aloof from every sort of foreign and security co-operation, we are now actively interested."

Mr Bildt's remarks underlined his government's growing distance from the neutrality followed by successive Swedish governments. He added: "The Nordic countries are going to join [the EC]. We have applied, the Finns are going to apply, and later rather than sooner, the Norwegians will, so we are going into the core of European integration."

Mr Bildt repeated his criticism of a letter from Ingvar Carlsson, the former prime minister, to President Saddam Hussein, which referred in neutral terms to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and likened it to the Israeli occupation of the West Bank.

Spain tries to stem migrant flood

The stream of North Africans who are entering the EC illegally via Spain is fast moving up the European agenda, Frank Smith reports from Madrid



González: need for a co-ordinated policy

daily stream of people trying to land illegally on the Costa del Sol from the countries of the Maghreb. On Tuesday, 16 Moroccans were deported after being arrested on a beach near the city of Almeria, having made the crossing from Morocco in a small boat. At least 20 others escaped.

Five days before that, in by far the biggest recorded incident to date, as many as 300 people, crammed together in a small fishing boat, made a perilous crossing from Nador

in Morocco to Almeria. As they approached the Spanish coast, the would-be immigrants jumped into the sea and swam ashore. Two men were drowned in the attempt and over a hundred were arrested and subsequently deported.

According to Señor González, illegal immigrants from North Africa through Spain into the rest of the European Community, will continue to increase. He attributed the flood of illegal immigration to "a lack of social and economic prospects, a galloping population growth and political tensions in countries like Algeria". The solution, he believed, lay partly in co-ordinated control of frontiers, as advocated by Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, as well as in increased EC aid to the Maghreb countries to alleviate underlying tensions. He condemned the European parliament's recent decision to block an EC financial agreement with Morocco as "a very serious political mistake".

Señor González was confi-

dent about Europe's future — and Spain's part in it — after the agreements reached at the last EC summit in December. "Maastricht was a very positive step in the right direction of European political, economic and monetary union," he said. He added: "None of our countries is big enough on its own to meet the economic, political or trade challenges of the international scene."

He dismissed reports that Spain's economic bubble would burst with the advent of greater competition when the single market was formed. "There have been a lot of myths about 1992," he said. "It is just the final step of a process of change which has been going on now for some years."

The prime minister believed that next big test for the Spanish economy would come in 1997, when the criteria for European economic and monetary convergence were due to be met. He thought Spain was up to the challenge. "In any case, he believed that monetary union was an 'irreversible process' that would affect all countries now in the EC and a few that were not yet members.

"We have got to get over the idea that a single currency somehow means a loss of sovereignty," Señor González remarked.

Yeltsin banishes Ruskoi to reform of farms

FROM RALPH BOULTON IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin threw down the gauntlet yesterday to Aleksandr Ruskoi, his conservative vice-president, ordering him to push through radical agricultural reform or answer to parliament. But Mr Ruskoi signalled his determination to resist with a sharp attack on Russian reforms.

The vice-president also risked angering other one-time Soviet republics by suggesting future restoration of a unified state within the territory of the former Soviet Union.

Mr Yeltsin announced Mr Ruskoi's assignment to agricultural reform, possibly the most difficult area in the administration, to loud guffaws from parliamentary deputies keenly aware of the vice-president's opposition to radical change. A lack of reforming zeal from the former fighter pilot — Mr Yeltsin is demanding rapid break-up of the old farm bureaucracy and privatisation of land — could quickly force a showdown between the two in parliament.

But Mr Ruskoi, deprived of many positions over the last few months, could see the "poison chalice" as a last opportunity to exert power within the administration. Outside, he enjoys broad support among conservatives, communists and army officers. President Yeltsin said that he had reached an understanding with Mr Ruskoi in talks on Wednesday.

"To occupy his time to the limit, he has been entrusted with the task of overseeing agricultural reform in Russia," President Yeltsin told parliament in a wave of laughter. "He can report to the president twice a month and to parliament every month," he said. As an elected official, Mr Ruskoi cannot be sacked from the vice-presidency by President Yeltsin. Only parliament can decide his fate. In Russia's Communist past, the official of party agriculture secretary was frequently seen as a political liability, an irony quickly recognised by depu-

ties yesterday. Nikita Khrushchev's fall as party chief in 1964 was largely the result of agricultural failures. In the 1970s, a leading official, Yegor Kulakov, faded from politics, eventually dying, after transfer to the post of agricultural secretary.

Mikhail Gorbachev, the former Soviet president, banished his hardline political opponent, Yegor Ligachov, to the post. One man, however, did survive the appointment to rise to ultimate power — Mr Gorbachev himself.

Mr Yeltsin told parliament that he was planning some changes to his economic policies to ensure better social protection of the poor and stimulate growth. "Life changes constantly. Changes are natural and inevitable," Mr Yeltsin said, acknowledging a public outcry in the face of higher prices.

"It has become clear we need a series of measures, which cannot be put off, to stimulate our economic course. Measures will be discussed to introduce the necessary changes," he said. He gave no details.

But Yeltsin's remarks, on the eve of a summit meeting with leaders of the frail Commonwealth of Independent States in Minsk, lacked concrete proposals.

Liberals may have been alarmed by Ruskoi's suggestion on Thursday that central control beyond Russia's current borders might yet be revived.

● **Honecker debate:** Russia, Germany and Chile have renewed their debate about what to do with Erich Honecker, the former communist leader of East Germany, but there is no sign of an early end to the battle over his fate.

Herr Honecker, aged 79, has been sheltering in Chile's embassy in Moscow since mid-December. Chilean officials say that he needs urgent medical treatment but they want Russia to promise not to expel him if he goes to hospital. (Reuter)

Retrial on Bologna bombing

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

ITALY's highest court yesterday ordered a new trial of extreme right-wing activists suspected of involvement in the 1980 bombing of Bologna railway station in which 85 people died.

On Wednesday night the supreme court annulled a 1990 appeal court judgement that had quashed convictions and life sentences on four neo-fascists. The four will have to stand trial again on charges of massacre, multiple murder and illegal transport of explosives.

Valerio Fioravanti, head of the Armed Revolutionary Nuclei group, and his wife, Francesca Mambro, were convicted in the first trial of planting and detonating the bomb. Massimiliano Fichini and Sergio Picciafuoco were also given life sentences in the first trial. Nine others, who had lesser sentences quashed, will also face a new trial.

VATICAN GAME

Cardinals vote on whether to grant an annulment of a marriage. The Vatican court is expected to rule on the future of the pope's private life.

Dedicated to my grandfather Joseph (who was a great man and a great leader) and to my grandmother (who was a great woman and a great leader).

Richard Bruce Wright II
1940-1992
A man of many talents and a great leader.

Japanese scandal emerges

Bribe squads raid suspects

FROM AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE IN TOKYO

JAPANESE prosecutors yesterday raided homes and companies linked to a transport group and a crime syndicate, threatening to unleash the biggest scandal to hit the Japanese establishment.

The ruling Liberal Democratic party bowed to opposition demands that Zenko Suzuki, the former prime minister, should testify in parliament on his role in another scandal involving an aide to Kiichi Miyazawa, the present prime minister.

The nationwide raids, backed up by police, followed weeks of rumours about payments by Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin, a parcel delivery company, to 200 MPs from all parties. More than 20 places were raided, including the homes of former Sagawa Kyubin executives, companies which received loans from the group, and Inagawa-kai, a criminal organisation.

The LDP is already facing a scandal involving Fumio Abe, the former head of Mr Miyazawa's own faction in the party. Opposition parties have boycotted parliament for more than a week, pressing the party to summon Mr Abe, charged this month with receiving bribes while he was a minister, and others who are implicated.

It was reported late yesterday that the Liberal Democrats had basically accepted the demands but had failed to guarantee the appearance of Mr Abe, Mr Suzuki and another former minister, Jun Shiozaki. The LDP does not want Mr Suzuki, who was prime minister in 1980-2, to be legally responsible for what he says, whereas the opposition insists he should be subject to normal judicial procedures, including laws on perjury.

Parliamentary business is expected to resume on Monday as a result of the ruling party caving in to opposition demands. The Liberal Democrats had already agreed to

summon Mr Shiozaki who served as minister in 1983 and 1990. It was unclear yesterday if it had agreed to summon Mr Abe, former head of the Hokkaido and Okinawa development agencies. Mr Abe and the two others, also members of the Miyazawa faction, are suspected of receiving 500 million yen (£2 million) from the steel-frame manufacturer, Kyowa Company, in return for political favours.

The opposition have been demanding the summoning of 21 people connected with the case, as well as with the Recruit scandal four years ago, involving stocks in exchange for favours, which led to the collapse of the government of Noboru Takeshita in 1989. Their demands have been fuelled by the LDP's loss of an upper house by-election on Sunday to an opposition candidate who campaigned on the scandals.

The election was seen as a prelude to the July polls for the upper house where the opposition already has control. Yesterday's raids coincided with reports that prosecutors were preparing to arrest the former president of Sagawa Kyubin, Hiroyasu Watanabe, and the former managing director, Jun Saotome, on charges of breaching company trust.

The two men are suspected of giving 110 billion yen, which has never been recovered, in the loans and guarantees to two companies with which they were linked. The figure is part of the 900 billion yen in loans and guarantees that were provided to some 90 companies and individuals since 1987.

Some 100 billion yen of this money is suspected to have ended up in the pockets of 200 MPs. Executives of the two companies linked to the former Sagawa Kyubin officials — a medical equipment company and a golf course developer — are also expected to be arrested soon.



Election footnote: a boy studies Imelda Marcos's shoes as the former first lady of the Philippines addresses a political rally in Vigan. Mrs Marcos, who left thousands of shoes behind when her family fled to the United States in 1986, is seeking to succeed President Aquino in

the May 11 polls. Election officials have disqualified 68 "nuisance candidates" running for president, so dashing the hopes of a self-proclaimed former Nazi general and other unknowns (AFP reports from Manila). At least one of the fringe runners plans to contest the ruling

which leaves only eight candidates: Mrs Marcos, Ramon Mitra, Fidel Ramos, Eduardo Cojuangco, Jovito Salonga, Salvador Laurel, Joseph Estrada and Miriam Santiago. An election commission resolution said dignity must be afforded to the presidency, and that there were indica-

tions that the aspirations of the 68 candidates would "put the electoral process in confusion". Jose Mari, a businessman and disillusioned Aquino follower, indignant at being labelled a nuisance, said he would file a petition before the supreme court questioning the ruling.

Zhao's dinner date feeds rumours of a comeback

FROM CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING

THE sight of an elderly man celebrating his daughter's birthday with his family in a restaurant would not normally cause comment. But when he is Zhao Ziyang, the former leader of China's Communist party, who all but vanished after he was toppled from power for supporting pro-democracy demonstrators in 1989, eyebrows are raised.

When rumours spread that Mr Zhao had been seen in the luxury Great Wall Sheraton Hotel, the management flatly denied it, perhaps, on the orders of the government, a department of which is a joint venture partner in the hotel. But independent sources confirmed that Mr Zhao, aged 72, and his family had eaten a meal in the Yuen Tai Restaurant and then tucked into a birthday cake.

In almost three years, there have been only two sightings of Mr Zhao. A year after

hardliners ousted him, he was spotted playing golf at the Japanese club outside Peking, where his name is still on the membership board. That he was playing golf suggested he was not really under house arrest, but had made an gentleman's agreement with the party to keep a low profile if he could entertain himself as he wished.

For two and a half years, hardliners have been trying to gather enough evidence against Mr Zhao to throw him out of the party and charge him with treason. But the latest sighting of Mr Zhao lends weight to speculation that this year he will gradually return to the public eye, and indeed to public office. That would be the first move towards a reassessment of the killings of pro-democracy supporters in Tiananmen Square in 1989.

Deng Xiaoping, aged 87,

the senior leader, and Mr Zhao have had a stormy relationship. During the Cultural Revolution, Mr Zhao, trying to save his own political skin, urged Red Guards to topple Mr Deng. Yet Mr Deng recognised Mr Zhao's talent for economic reform, bringing him into the politburo in 1980. Seven years later, he designated Mr Zhao his chosen successor. But in 1989 Mr Deng dumped Mr Zhao for supporting students' calls for democracy.

Now, in an apparent last-ditch attempt to save his economic reforms, Mr Deng seems to be supporting Mr Zhao's return to public life. Hong Kong newspapers have reported that Mr Deng said: "Zhao is very resourceful. If you say I am the chief architect of reform and opening up, then Zhao Ziyang was at least the chief engineer. You must not negate him."

China hand-picks Hong Kong team

FROM AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE IN HONG KONG

PEKING has chosen the first batch of Hong Kong people to act as advisers on the affairs of the British territory that reverts to Chinese sovereignty in 1997. Chinese official sources here said yesterday:

Sources close to the Xinhua news agency, Peking's *de facto* embassy in Hong Kong, said the first group of about 40 prominent Hong Kong people were invited on Wednesday to visit Peking next month for formal appointment as advisers on Hong Kong affairs. Before going to Peking, the group will visit China's aerospace technology and satellite launching centre in Xichang in western Sichuan province. The advisers are expected to work with the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the Chinese state council or with Xinhua, the sources added.

Reports said the list included business leaders such as Li Ka-shing, Henry Fok and Sir Run Run Shaw, as well as Peter Tsao, a retired government official, local National People's Congress delegates, and former Basic Law drafting committee members. Many have accepted the invitation to act as advisers, but others are still considering the offer. Their tenure will be for renewable two-year terms.

The sources close to Xinhua said the group did not include any liberal legislators elected in the colony's first direct elections to the legislative council in September because those legislators were opposed to the Chinese Communist party and government.

Meanwhile 16 more Vietnamese boat people were arrested here yesterday in connection with the rioting in a detention camp last week that killed 23 people, police reported.

Briton to fight Thais on salvage

Singapore: Michael Hatcher, a British treasure hunter, said he wanted to take legal action against Thailand after its navy seized antique porcelain he had salvaged from an ancient shipwreck.

The Thai navy last week seized 10,000 porcelain artefacts that Mr Hatcher and his crew had taken from the 600-year-old vessel. He values the haul at more than £2.8 million. Thailand claims that the wreck lies within its territorial waters.

"If we could take this to the International Court of Justice [in The Hague] we will win," said Mr Hatcher, who heads of a consortium of European, Australian and American businessmen. However, since the court only settles disputes between governments, Mr Hatcher said he planned to ask the British government to lodge the complaint. (Reuters)

Warming peril

Bangkok: Global warming may threaten many jobs, farmland and much of the coastline in Southeast Asia, the United Nations environment programme said, because of rising temperatures and sea levels. (AP)

Lee challenge

Tokyo: Lee Kuan Yew, the former prime minister of Singapore, urged Japan to admit its atrocities committed in the second world war. He told a seminar in Kyoto that Japan ought to follow Germany's example. (Reuters)

Nerve gas alert


Majuro: The US Army temporarily closed its nerve gas destruction plant on the remote Marshall island of Johnston in the Pacific last month after a furnace explosion, a spokesman said yesterday. (Reuters)

Ice and slow

Wellington: A letter written by T. Griffith-Taylor, a member of Captain Robert Falcon Scott's ill-fated expedition 80 years ago, which was left on the ice in a cigarette tin marked "London", has been found in the Antarctic. (AFP)


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Democrats beg Cuomo to join race

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER
IN CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN A Concord office cluttered with election paraphernalia, late at night, volunteers were still answering a bank of ringing telephones. It could have been any of New Hampshire's presidential campaign offices. The difference was that this office was busier, and its candidate, Mario Cuomo, is not in the race.

Soon after New York's dithering governor ruled himself out on December 20, Phil Krone and Don Rose, distressed political consultants from Chicago, launched a "draft Cuomo" write-in campaign to try to change his mind. The idea was mocked at the time. Seven weeks later, with adultery and draft-dodging charges destroying the campaign of Bill Clinton, the governor of Arkansas, their highly professional effort is beginning to take off.

They have sent out 86,000 leaflets telling Democrats exactly what to do, distributed 50,000 pencils bearing Mr Cuomo's name, and are running a \$25,000 (£14,000) advertising blitz in the final week. It is attracting big media coverage. The phones rarely stop, money is flowing in, and desperate Democrats are telling pollsters they will write in Mr Cuomo's name on a blank space beneath the 36 official names on Tuesday's ballot paper.

Mr Cuomo is not draft-dodging. He spent Wednesday evening at Harvard, just south of the state border, delivering a campaign-style speech which he knew Boston's television stations would beam into southern New Hampshire and would upstage the official candidates. He insists a partisan deadlock over New York's budget still stops him standing, but quickly adds: "Why should I discourage them? What do you want me to do — win the arrogance award?"

Messrs Krone and Rose are plausibly aiming for 15 per cent or roughly 20,000 votes, enough to place Mr Cuomo third, give their campaign momentum, and destroy the credibility of the fourth, fifth and sixth placed candidates.

That Mr Cuomo's un-candidacy should even register is the measure of the Democrats' panic. For want of an

electable candidate, they fear, they could squander their best chance to regain the White House since 1976.

The steady drip-drip of allegations against Mr Clinton has their golden boy's campaign in a political tailspin, and yesterday the leak of a letter he wrote to an army reserve recruiting officer during Vietnam was front-page news in every paper.

Mr Clinton, then an anti-war activist studying at Oxford, thanked the officer for "saving me from the draft" and acknowledged misleading him to obtain a deferment. He had later surrendered that deferment "to maintain my political viability", a statement at odds with last week's claim that he did so out of conscience.

A Boston Globe poll yesterday gave Mr Clinton 19 per cent in New Hampshire, down more than 15 points in a week and 11 behind Paul Tsongas. He looked strained and weary. He cannot make his political message heard. Rivals are openly questioning his credibility. Dispirited aides now talk of merely surviving a primary he seemed to have sewn up, while Washington Democrats believe that if he won the party's nomination he would be destroyed by Mr Bush.

Mr Clinton vows to "fight like hell". He still attracts big money and large crowds. He has taken half-hour television slots to talk directly to the voters. He urges them to "take back their election" from dirty tricks merchants spreading lies about "a woman I didn't sleep with and a draft I didn't dodge". There could yet be a sympathetic backlash in his favour.

Mr Tsongas has a resonant message of economic puritanism but lacks strength outside his native New England, and too many Democrats recall how another Massachusetts Greek, Michael Dukakis, flopped in 1988. Bob Kerrey, the Nebraska senator, now has an advertisement suggesting he is the only electable candidate, but despite a wondrous résumé, the Granite State has not warmed to his introspective mysticism.

Smart lady, L&T, page 1



Fight for life: an unidentified man is swept away in the flooded Los Angeles River near Reseda, in the San Fernando Valley in southern California. Several efforts to rescue him failed and he is now listed among the many missing in the floods, after heavy rains pounded California. The storm has been

described by meteorologists as the worst for 100 years (Reuters writes). Officials said at least seven missing people were feared to have been swept away by torrents of water gushing along normally dry creeks and river beds. The storm threatened to wash away million-dollar mansions in the exclusive beach

community of Malibu, where many movie stars and other leading figures in the entertainment industry live. Pete Wilson, the governor of California, declared a state of emergency in Los Angeles and Ventura counties, freeing funds to help people who had lost their homes and belongings. More than 1,000

people were evacuated to Red Cross shelters in schools and community centres as flash flood warnings were posted. Weathermen said three more storms, lurking off the Pacific coast, would hit the mainland tomorrow and at the weekend. Mudslides and falling rocks have also disrupted road traffic.

Teflon Don sticks to old-time style

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK loves nostalgia. From the art-deco grandeur of the Rainbow Room and the Chrysler building to the bagel shops of Queens, citizens revel in the feel of the bygone age that suffuses the city.

This yearning for a more stylish time is afflicting the Brooklyn federal court where John Gotti, the "Teflon Don", has just entered the dock in a trial which must expect to bring down the curtain on the old-style Mafia.

Everyone, from the dapper Mr Gotti to the candidate jurors, has been playing up to the colourful world of the wise-guys, or at least the Hollywood version. At centre stage, straight from central casting, sits the alleged don, draped in elegant pinstripes and a sinister smile.

His aim is to dominate the court and unsettle his adversaries with wise-cracks about the Feds who are trying to

naïl him for his alleged authorship of five rub-outs, including that of Paul Castellano, his alleged predecessor as godfather of the Gambinos. In one crack, he described Judge Leo Glasser as a "fagot" (homosexual) and, displeased by the unimpressive appearance of two young prosecutors, he wondered: "When is the last time those punks washed their hair?"

When Judge Glasser threatened to move the trial out of New York, away from Mr Gotti's turf, the "reputed mobster" played to his public. "Where's he gonna move it? Stuttgart, West Germany?" He then turned with a grin to his co-defendant, Frank Locascio. "Frankie, get down on your knees and big him not to move it." A ripple of appreciation rolled through the public benches, which are heavily populated by Mr

Gotti's alleged goodfellas.

These men in double-breasted suits with padded shoulders were accorded a full sartorial critique by *Newsday* yesterday. "Calm stripes and turbulent ties are standard fashion features," the couture writer said. "The younger men prefer more extreme peaked lapels and generally do not have cuffs on their trousers."

Whatever their attire, the Gotti crew has weighed on the minds of potential jurors, several of whom were excused after expressing their fears. "Jury Petrified They'll End up in Concrete Shoes," blared the *New York Post*. One juror was dismissed when he told the judge that his neighbour "was eliminated from the planet for fooling around with a mobster's wife."

Even Andrew Maloney, the chief prosecutor, succumbed to a little gangster theatricals

in his opening speech on Wednesday. "This is a case about the Gambino crime family of La Cosa Nostra and its leadership, two of whom are sitting before you," he told the jury in tones that came straight from the voice-over to an episode of *The Untouchables*.

"This is a case about a Mafia boss being brought down by his own words, his own right arm." He was referring to the two chief weapons which Mr Maloney hopes will win him the victory which was denied to his colleagues in three previous trials of the man who describes himself as a humble plumbing salesman. These are the treason of Sammy Gravano, his alleged consigliere and now a prosecution witness, and tapes from an FBI bug at Mr Gotti's hangout in Little Italy.

In them, his voice can be heard ordering the "whack-

ing" of business rivals and disloyal lieutenants while proclaiming such things as: "We're gonna sever your head off, see. This is gonna be a Cosa Nostra until I die." Carried away somewhat, Mr Maloney listed Mr Gotti's alleged greatest hits and asked rhetorically: "Who tells you everything I've just said?" Jerking his arm towards the Mr Gotti, he formed a pistol with his fingers, cocked the trigger, pointed to his head, and said slowly: "John Gotti does."

The defence lawyer, Albert J. Krieger, in his opening statement immediately attacked the prosecution's key witness telling jurors that Salvatore "Sammy Bull" Gravano is "full of evil." He said Gravano, "is a little man full of evil, corruption, manipulation and vanity, who has tried to clear his slate by admitting to 19 murders."

Thwarted marchers turn on Pakistani protectors

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN MUZAFFARABAD

PAKISTANI Kashmiris abandoned their siege of the border with India yesterday, beaten by thousands of troops lined up three miles from the frontier with orders to shoot to kill.

Senior army officers told march leaders in a bizarre night time meeting in an ambulance parked on a mountain track that there would be a bloodbath if the thousands of marchers attempted to go closer to the 1949 line of control dividing Kashmir. Sixteen people had died when thousands of people stormed and overran three lines of police defences

in battles that went on all day on Wednesday, according to the Edhi Foundation, a private welfare organisation that provided a fleet of ambulances to carry away the dead and injured. It said 350 people were injured, up to 60 seriously. The government put the toll at three dead.

The army formed the final barrier at the "red line" within sight of the hills on the Indian side of Kashmir. Amanullah Khan, the leader of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, a separatist group that led the assault, returned to the Azad (Free) Kashmiri capital of Muzaffarabad last night and said that he would not attempt to penetrate army lines.

However, protesters marched through the narrow streets of the city chanting: "Go back Pakistani dogs. Crush Pakistan. Freedom for Kashmir." It was the first time such a demonstration has been seen in Pakistan-controlled Kashmir. There now seems little doubt that an independence movement has taken firm root.

The determination of supporters of the liberation front to break through to India stunned both the security forces and the Pakistani government. Mian Nawaz Sharif, the prime minister, who was under intense international pressure to prevent the threat of another war with India, gave firm instructions that nobody should be allowed to breach the dividing line whatever the cost.

Yesterday, the young men lying in the hospital here could hardly believe what had happened to them. They were confused and angry. Mustaq Rathore, a student aged 21, was shot in the back and, according to doctors, paralysed permanently from the waist down.

"I am a Muslim and I was shot by Muslims. We have been betrayed. Pakistan is trying to destroy the freedom struggle," he said. Abdul Aziz, a refugee from India aged 20, who was shot in the chest, said he too felt betrayed.

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Royal embrace: the Prince of Wales kissing his wife after playing polo in Jaipur yesterday

Princely peck leaves polo fans swooning

BY ALAN HAMILTON

THOUSANDS of Indians invaded a polo field at Jaipur yesterday for the rare sight of the Prince of Wales kissing his wife in public, an intimacy that the country's romantic film industry would normally regard as far too hot for the screen.

A crowd, estimated at 8,000, gathered to watch the prince play for the Harrow-educated Maharajah of Jaipur's team in a charity match. After the game, which the Maharajah's team won 4-3, the crowd poured out to the field to see the Princess of Wales present the prizes.

The prince planted a firm kiss on the princess's cheek, a normal activity at polo prizegivings. The six-day official visit, intended to breathe some warmth into the relationship between the old mother country and the former jewel

Algeria extremists attack military post

FROM ALFRED HERMIDA IN ALGIERS

ISLAMIC extremists attacked a guard post at a military base in Algiers early yesterday, killing one marine. The attack came amid fears of an outburst of fundamentalist anger at weekly prayer meetings today.

Two of the attackers were killed in an exchange of gunfire. The rest were arrested after a police chase and several weapons were recovered, Algerian Radio reported.

This is the latest in a series of attacks on the security forces by Islamic extremists. Six police officers were killed in the capital earlier this week when militants opened fire with automatic rifles. Two other officers were stabbed to death in a town to the east.

The military-backed authorities believe there are a number of active clandestine groups of Islamic extremists. Six people belonging to one group were arrested in Algiers this week. In Tipaza, to the west, four members of another group were found.

There is an increased security presence on the streets

in Algiers in preparation for weekly prayer meetings, with troops armed with live ammunition. Last Friday there was a wave of violence across the country as the security forces clashed with fundamentalists, protesting against the cancellation of elections last month which the Islamic Salvation Front was poised to win. At least 60 people have been killed over the past week.

Tension has been heightened by uncertainty over whether the party will go ahead with a march through the capital today. It called for the march last week, in protest against "the political piracy" of the authorities. But since then the demonstration has been banned and the authorities have started proceedings to outlaw the party.

The 12-month state of emergency, imposed on Sunday evening, gives the security forces sweeping powers of arrest and detention. Mohammed Boudiaf, the head of state, said any means were justified to restore the rule of law.

Detective barred from Ward court

FROM SAM KILEY IN NAIROBI

A BRITISH detective was barred yesterday from sitting in on the trial in Nairobi of two game rangers accused of murdering Julie Ward. The move against Det Chief Supt Graham Searle, of Scotland Yard, was ordered by Mr Justice Fidahussen Abdullah at the request of the defence.

Mr James Orenge asked the court to bar Mr Searle from the proceedings. He said: "To put it bluntly, during the course of the case, we are going to question the role of the Kenyan police and Scotland Yard over the manner they obtained statements and created all sorts of loopholes in their investigations."

Mr Orenge said that Mr Searle, who until yesterday had assisted the prosecution, should be sent out of the court because, as the defence cross-examined witnesses about statements they made to the British police, "Mr Searle might have the opportunity to brief witnesses about our line of argument." The judge accepted the argument.

It came as evidence emerged that the car belonging to Miss Ward, killed in a Kenyan game reserve in 1988, was seen being driven in the Masai Mara three days after she disappeared.

Aspect of charity puts off Webber

Andrew Lloyd Webber, the millionaire composer, has stopped giving personal items to charity auctions because he is fed up with people cashing in by reselling them. His personal assistant told one school: "Regrettably, in order to retain some control over effects personal to Andrew Lloyd Webber and The Really Useful Group, we have been forced to adopt this policy."

Benny Hill will leave hospital this weekend after "having his wrists slapped" by doctors, Dennis Kirkland, his friend and producer, said. But before being driven to his flat in Teddington, west London, he will get a stern warning to lead a healthier lifestyle. The 17-stone comedian was taken to a private hospital on Monday complaining of chest pains.

Constantine Mitsotakis, the Greek prime minister, was escorted by Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia to the annual camel race festival supervised by King Fahd. The camel race is the opening act in a national festival for heritage and culture held at Jandriya, outside Riyadh.

A pencil sketch of a nude woman made by Anthony Blunt, the fourth man in the spy ring involving Kim Philby, Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean, when he was 14, fetched £190 at auction in Hitchin, Hertfordshire. The picture, the only known work by Blunt, who went on to become Surveyor of the Queen's Pictures, was bought by a German art dealer.

Bob Hawke, the former Australian prime minister, has signed a contract to write his memoirs, the publishers William Heinemann Australia said. Mr Hawke, aged 62, a one-time self-confessed heavy drinker, led his party to four successive election victories during nearly nine years in power, a Labor record.

Tony Hancock's widow has attacked the BBC for the televised drama produced about the last years of the comic's life. Freddie Hancock, aged 61, who was employed as a consultant on the programme, has said in Australia that her main complaint was that the programme was an impressionistic rather than a photographic reproduction of Hancock's final years.

Satyajit Ray, India's best known film director, is in hospital with kidney problems, Calcutta's *Telegraph* newspaper reported. He has long suffered heart problems. Ray, aged 70, is due to receive a special Oscar for lifetime achievement in cinema.

Derek Humphrey, the 62-year-old Englishman who founded the Hemlock Society, said he will step down on August 1 as executive director of the right-to-die advocacy group which he started in his Los Angeles garage in 1980.

Whoopi Goldberg, the American actress, has bought a 52-acre bushveld property near South Africa's Kruger Park game reserve in northern Transvaal, an estate agent said.

The White House has begun the search for a new director of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration following the forced resignation of Richard Truly, the former astronaut, aged 54.

Until yesterday it had been assumed that Miss Ward's brown Suzuki jeep had got stuck in a gully on September 6, 1988, the day she vanished. But under defence cross-examination, Derek Dames, a tour manager for Kerr and Downey safaris, said in Nairobi high court that a member of his camping crew had told him he had seen the car being driven on September 9.

Peter Kipeen, aged 26, and Jonah Magiroi, aged 28, game rangers stationed at the nearby Makari Rangers outpost, are on trial for the murder of Miss Ward, aged 28.

A festival filled with romance

Philip Howard investigates the origins of St Valentine's Day

Today is one of the best-known dates in the calendar, dedicated to flaunting one's heart on one's sleeve in an exhibitionist way. The British are peculiarly bad at it, as can be read in the endless coy and suggestive bad-taste entries in the personal columns of the newspapers. Red roses, lighter than air balloons, chocolates, and other more or less appropriate amorous tokens are being delivered around the country by last minute credit card. We are embarrassed by emotion, though you might not guess that from the behaviour of the British on television programmes, where they are invited to bare their amorous propensities. So we turn the day into a populist lark.

And we blame the vulgarity on trade, and the Americans. In Los Angeles, a company called Lovers' Letters Ink has been set up to write love letters for the illiterate or the seriously busy, guaranteed to turn the sender into a regular Lord Byron. One man has sent the same passionate letter to six valentine ladies this year, paying for them with a credit card held jointly with his wife.

St Valentine's Day, with all its consequences for the printing and florist industries, is one of the less likely results of the cult of the Roman martyr. But it is older and odder than we think. People have been grumbling about the peculiar institution for ages. As long ago as 1863, Robert Chambers, the Edinburgh autodidact, wrote: "Valentine's Day is now almost everywhere a much degenerated festival, the only observance of any note consisting merely of the sending of jocular anonymous letters to parties whom one wishes to quiz, and this confined very much to the humbler classes."

The older festival, before the arrival of mass commercialism and twee cards in the best possible taste, consisted of a flirtatious lucky dip. An equal number of male and female friends wrote their names or *noms de plume* on bits of paper and then drew them like lots. Each young man drew a girl who was his valentine, and each girl drew her male valentine. "By this means each has two valentines; but the man sticks faster to the valentine that has fallen to him than to the valentine to whom he is fallen." Presents were exchanged in order to relieve the obligation of love or worse, under which being drawn as valentines had placed the donors. The aristocracy exchanged valuable jewels.

This was the valentine custom that Pepys described on February 14, 1667: "This morning came up to my wife's bedside (I being up dressing myself) little Will Mercer to be her valentine, and brought her name written upon blue paper in gold letters, done by himself, very pretty, and we were both well pleased with it. But I am also this year my wife's valentine, and it will cost me £5; but that I must have

laid out anyway even if we had not been valentines." More than three centuries ago, English husbands were grumbling about the nonsense.

But it goes back farther than that. In *Midsummer-Night's Dream*, Theseus says:

St Valentine is past:
Begin these wood-birds but
to couple now!

Donne began his epithalamium on the wedding of Princess Elizabeth to Frederick of the Rhine: "Hail, Bishop Valentine". The Paston Letters of the 15th century record the valentine boyfriend draw.

Literary references go back to Chaucer. In his *Parlement of Foules*, of about 1381, he suggested that St Valentine's Day was the day when every bird cometh to choose his mate. Cautious scholars assert that the medieval belief that February 14 is the day on which birds start to mate is the origin of the custom. (They haven't a clue.)

But the bold can take it further back than that.

A Roman priest and doctor called Valentine is said to have been beheaded in the reign of Claudius the Goth, on February 14, 269, on the Flaminian Way. On the same day in the Roman martyrology another valentine is celebrated, the Bishop of Interamna (Terni) about 60 miles from Rome. He was scourged and imprisoned, and then beheaded by the order of the inappropriately named prefect, Placidus. The best bet is that these are two variants of stories about the same valentine.

Scholars of these fragile shards of history, embroidered by seventeen centuries of hagiography, suggest that the Roman priest had become bishop of Interamna, was sentenced there, and then brought back to Rome for execution. In these dodgy matters you have to work by guess and by God.

Go back long before Valentine, and you will find a suggestive route. This is also the day of a very ancient Roman festival called Lupercalia, a fertility beano. Everybody gathered round the Lupercal, the cave on the Palatine Hill where Romulus and Remus were supposed to have been suckled by a wolf. Goats were sacrificed and people were smeared with the blood. Women offered themselves to be beaten, because the blows were supposed to be a sovereign remedy for barrenness.

You can read all about it in *Julius Caesar*, Shakespeare's *Mark Antony* was out jogging and flinging the women on Lupercal/Valentine's Day, when he tried to present J. Caesar with a kingly crown: "Which he did thrice refuse: was this ambition?" But for heaven's sake don't report this old story to the Americans. Otherwise simulated bleeding goatskins made out of plastic will become next year's trendy valentine. Come to think of it, they would be no more naïf than the rest of the extraordinary festivities.



St Valentine: older and odder than we think

Peter Riddell on why neither party can deliver a knock-out blow to its opponent

Hubris or fatalism?

A WEEK IN POLITICS

The senior Labour frontbencher was taken aback, and looked rather pensive, when I suggested that if his predictions were correct he might be sitting at the cabinet table in eight weeks. His efforts have been so focused on winning that he has not yet come to terms with what it would be like to win. Just as virtually all ministers are convinced they will somehow hold on to office, many Labour MPs still cannot quite believe that they will win; a contest, perhaps, of hubris versus fatalism. The conventional wisdom of the political world is that when voters finally have to choose between John Major and Neil Kinnock and their programmes, the Tories will win, possibly very narrowly, but win nonetheless — a belief shaken, but not destroyed, by awful days for the government, such as yesterday with the grim unemployment figures and record mortgage repossession. Such predictions rely on large amounts of ingrained faith, or in Labour's case doubt, rather than reason.

In reality, neither party has a decisive edge. The Tories and Labour are locked together like tired sumo wrestlers. They have been within two or three points of each other in the polls for most of the time since last spring and are now level pegging. The parties' much trumpeted offensive — by Labour on the health service in October and by the Tories on taxes last month — have produced at most short-lived surges in support. It is misleading to read too

much into these figures, to claim portentously that the electorate as a whole is somehow undecided. Most voters have made up their minds. The Tories are still within three percentage points of their share of the vote in both 1983 and 1987 and Labour has improved its share by nine percentage points since its 1987 defeat. The closeness of the poll ratings suggests that neither party has attracted enough of the small group of additional voters needed to win an overall majority. After the poll tax and the recession, these voters are reluctant to give the Tories a fourth term, yet they do not believe in Labour's ability to manage the economy and improve its performance without re-igniting inflation and raising taxes. Neither side has overcome the doubts and fears of these voters.

Overseas, parties in opposition are also finding it hard to persuade voters that they can perform better than those in office. The Democrats remain in ideological disarray in America, as do the Social Democrats in Germany. For all the difficulties created by the hangover from the expansionist 1980s, many opposition parties have not offered credible alternative programmes. Voters do not want to reject all of the shift towards a free market economy and deregulation. This contrasts

with the late 1970s when economic failure led to a conservative/free market response.

In Britain, the poll ratings have been so consistent for such a lengthy period, in spite of all the feverish campaigning, that there is no obvious reason why there should now be a sudden change. The parties, their leaders and policies are as familiar as they are ever likely to be.

So we could be facing an unusual campaign. Most elections start with a clear frontrunner, even if the other party sometimes catches up at the end, as happened in 1970 and February 1974. But this time the campaign may begin with no party as the overwhelming favourite. That prospect is sending the campaign strategists into a frantic search for any manoeuvre to gain a small advantage over their opponent by polling day.

As I have argued previously, Labour's best hope of breaking through is to concentrate on attacking the government's record rather than winning converts through its promises. So far, most voters blame the Thatcher administration and world conditions for

the recession, rather than John Major. But the latest batch of gloomy news makes repeated ministerial forecasts of a turning point look foolish as well as wrong. The theme of "do the Tories deserve to be re-elected?" may evoke a response, and the Labour campaign has begun to gather some momentum in the past ten days.

In many ways it is extraordinary that Tory support is holding up as it is. One reason is that, whatever the impact of the recession, the earnings of those in work are still rising by 3 to 4 per cent more than prices. Some voters no doubt believe that, while the Tories may have landed us in this mess, they are still the best, or any rate least worst, lot to assist recovery. That could, however, be treacherous ground: anger over the recession, high interest rates, the poll tax, and public services could prevent the Tories from winning a fourth term.

The Tories' strongest card remains tax and the ambiguities over Labour's tax and spending plans. There is no doubt that the budget on March 10 will help define the Tories as the tax-cutting party. This is a double-edged weapon for the Tories since Labour can say it would use the money for public services, over and above what is available from its existing tax proposals. The budget looks

the obvious springboard to launch the campaign for an April 9 election, even though May 7 has still not been ruled out by Mr Major and his advisers. Advocates of the later date argue that the favourable impact of a budget often takes time to work through: poll tax bills received in late March may have been partly forgotten in early May, and the odd green shoot of recovery might have appeared by then. Nevertheless, the government is becoming increasingly boxed in to an April election by expectations at Westminster. These will be hard to change and the advantages of waiting could be offset by charges of dithering.

Even if the Tories start a spring campaign level pegging with Labour, or slightly behind because of the gloomy economic news, the electoral system favours them. Labour tends to win large numbers of votes in seats that it will always win and that it will never win, while the Tory vote is better spread. The Liberal Democrats tend to perform better at elections, mainly at Labour's expense, than suggested by the polls. If the two parties win roughly the same share of the vote, the Tories' advantage in terms of seats, between 20 and 45 over Labour, might just be enough for an overall majority. But the numbers are very tight: the Tories will not forget Rab Butler's famous comment during the 1964 election, echoed by Roy Jenkins in his comments on the 1970 contest, that "this one might be slipping away from us."

Hunting in the blood

Frances Donaldson joins today's bloodsports debate



Still a vital part of rural life: the Wild Mammals Bill could lead to more cruelty not less

man, and from perusing the press I gather many of the arguments against fox-hunting have not progressed since I first argued against them in a book written 30 years ago — *Child of the Twenties*. Apparently, there are people who still believe that a "degree of cruelty may be one of the attractions of fox-hunting" — that is that people go out to see the fox killed as Spaniards go to see the bull. This shows complete ignorance of what the whole thing is about. In the first place, more often than not

only a very few people — the bold and the brave — ever have the opportunity to see a fox killed in the open, and they are usually preoccupied attending to their blown and sweating horses and by the pleasure of being there at the end. Most of the field are still busy jumping the gaps in hedges made by the leaders, or even using their knowledge of the countryside to trot round the roads to the end of the run, which they reach often as soon as the rest. All these people, like those in front of them, are

there for the ride, for the prolonged day in the countryside. For this reason among others, the idea that a drag hunt would do as well is also a misconception. In the first place a drag is not a day's outing in the countryside in which events occur naturally, but a fast run over a settled course. In the second, this course has been laid by a man, and while he may add a large element of risk by laying it over high fences, he will not, as a fox will, do this over one which, innocent on one side, has a brook

or a dangerous drop on the other, or into a field in which there is no other way out.

It is the element of the chase, the reality of risk, which is part of the charm of fox-hunting for everybody except the old clericalists trotting round the road. If their time has passed, one should by no means underestimate their contribution to country life.

One cannot speculate on the degree of fear felt by the fox. A predator by nature, his instinct is to run when threatened and when he hears the hounds he is aware he is being chased. Yet he often gets away, and, when seen choosing his direction out of a wood, looks resourceful and collected rather than afraid.

Animals do not ponder questions of life and death and their great fear is of being held. Thus, if appearances are anything to go by, a sheep having its feet cut, or being cleaned of maggot, suffers an extreme of hysterical fear, apparently unknown to a fox being chased. It is exactly this which accounts for the fact that, if there is no sadism on the part of the fox hunter, there is an element which might be described as callousness in all country folk.

Farm men will sit up all night with a sick lamb or a cow having difficulty calving, and when I was a farmer the place was riddled with cans because I could never and anyone to put the latest litter down. Yet hundreds of lambs, which are during the whole of their lives the pride and joy of the farmer and his stockman, are like sheep, only there to fatten and be killed. If this unsentimental acceptance of the natural processes of life were to be lost, we should all be vegetarians or starve.

Lady Donaldson is the biographer of Edward VIII.



...and moreover

ALAN COREN

A night or so ago, I was slumped in front of a sitcom containing no sit and even less com (to pedants protesting there can be no such thing as negative comedy. I will say only that they were not chort, when something suddenly jolted me from my torpor and hurriedly mustered a number of brain cells which, up until then, occurred to me that for the first time in my experience, I was being instructed not merely when to laugh, but how to. This is merely an aside, the soundtrack was saying, requiring only a chuckle, so do not waste a howl on it because there is a really big boffola treble-take coming along any minute now, when we shall be asking you to pull all the stops out.

One of the best things about really bad television is how much wool you can gather while staring at it. I thus began to speculate on the manufacture of this new laughter: since it had clearly been assembled from countless different bits, were there laughter-banks, perhaps, where donors — selected for their inordinately high laughter-count — were handed a joke and shown to a cubicle in which they did their private thing? Did they shuffle out again, somewhat sheepishly, and hand their cassette in at the desk, so that it could be matched to a register of directors with sterile scripts? Were they paid for this? Was it controlled, to safeguard the world against one day filling up with unwanted by-blows, i.e. bursts of hysterical giggles

turning up uninvited in the middle of, say, *A Time to Dance*? I could not answer this, not simply on its own account but also because it had started untempered hares, now thumping their hind-legs on the carpet with more than mere seasonal masses; for why should responses not turn up in other programmes, if they were the appropriate responses? Indeed, as a toiler in the vineyard myself, I now grew irritated that only comedy was deemed to be in need of such support, as if nobody would ever find anything funny unless told it was.

What, logically, was there to be said against taking a sentimental mini-series involving, as they so often seem to, terminal diseases or blokes running off with the woman upstairs, and adding to its crucial moments the sound of sobbing, or Kleenex being blown? Would horror stories, fictional and documentary alike, not benefit from the occasional shriek and retch? Are there not more and more occasions, these days, when a little off-screen heavy breathing would not be entirely inappropriate? Would party political broadcasts not be inculcated by the odd pre-emptive raspberry?

I think the canning industry could well do themselves a favour here. And since you ask, I seek none of my own: whatever the going rate for donors, it will never be mine. Faced with most television, what I do best is snore, and I can't see much of a market for that.

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Diplomatic impasse

WHILE United Nations peace-keeping troops may be on their way to Croatia there is still no prospect of any British diplomats joining them — and the Croats are making no secret of the fact that they feel let down.

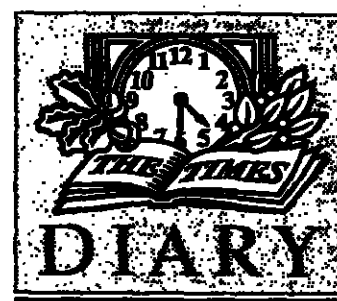
Drago Berisic, the director of the Croatian Centre in London, says: "When the declaration of recognition came through, we assumed that British diplomats would be on the next plane to Zagreb. We are disappointed by the delay but it is explained by Britain's original reluctance to grant recognition at all. The government has a good relationship with the Serbian lobby, which is very strong, while our community is very small."

Nearly five weeks after recognition, Germany is the only European Community country to have sent an ambassador to Zagreb. The Foreign Office says that a decision has still not been taken on British representation.

Such a decision could prove costly, say the Croats, for a strong diplomatic presence in Zagreb could even save lives, they believe. "The presence of British diplomats would have had a restraining effect on the Serbs and boosted our morale," says Berisic. "If Mrs Thatcher had still been prime minister we think an ambassador would have arrived already."

Mrs Thatcher is keen to accept a long-standing invitation from the Croats to visit Zagreb but will not go without Foreign Office approval. Yesterday the Foreign Office confirmed its advice that nobody should travel to Croatia, so the former prime minister's plans remain on ice.

While Zagreb lacks a British ambassador, it does have a con-



sulate, there since 1918, manned by a junior official. Slovenia, the other newly-recognised state, does not even have a consulate. The only British ambassador in the region is Sir Peter Hall, our man in Belgrade — the last place a Croat would dream of going for help or protection.

Urban space man

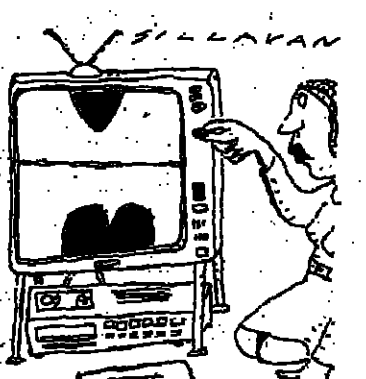
ARCHITECTS still recovering from Prince Charles's onslaught in *A Vision of Britain* will not be looking forward to the prospect of a sequel. Next month the prince is to publish *Urban Villages*, in which he will argue, somewhat surprisingly, that under certain circumstances there is nothing wrong with building on green belt land. John Thompson, an architect who is a member of the prince's Urban Villages Group, offered a clue to the prince's line of argument. "Urban villages are the only places that are alive, unlike the soulless developments we usually have to contend with."

But rumours circulating the literary world yesterday that Prince Charles is about to follow his husband into print are premature, to say the least. Giles Gordon, the prince's literary agent, said: "I've asked her if she will write a book. She said finally it would be about ten years."

Having an affair may have increased Paddy Ashdown's poll ratings, but where does it leave Labour, asks this week's Tribune in a survey of the sex-appeal of Labour MPs. Neil Kinnock fares particularly badly. "The sort of guy who, if he did not have a cigarette afterwards, might do press-ups," says Laurie Taylor, the professor of sociology at York University. The Labour woman with the mostest, according to the Tribune poll, is Joan Ruddock. Tony Banks emerges as the MP most would like to meet on Blind Date. Peter Hain, the Labour MP voted likely to receive the most valentine cards, was yesterday convinced. "It sounds like this has more to do with April 1 than February 14."

Valentine turn-on

IF ABELARD had expressed his love for Heloise via a computer would their names still be remembered in legend? The days of



imaginative, personal declarations are dead, it seems: surely nothing could be less romantic than the electronic valentine. Last year one man proposed via the announcement service of cable

television. Three days later the lady accepted, encouraging the cable television company this year to offer a fully animated valentine message service using clips from home videos; it certainly gives a whole new meaning to being turned on. But if Romeo had wooed Juliet via television would Shakespeare have ever bothered writing about the "screen-cross'd lovers"?

Women's wrongs

A PLAN by a left-wing London council to honour one of Britain's greatest feminist pioneers has backfired. Southwark council, south London, has unveiled a plaque to honour Mary Wollstonecraft at the spot where, it claims, 200 years ago she wrote her pioneering feminist work, *Vindication of the Rights of Women*. But historians, including Claire Tomalin, who wrote a 1974 biography of Wollstonecraft, insist the council has got it wrong. The great work, they say, was written north of the River Thames. "I thought about this very carefully when I wrote my book," says Tomalin, speaking from Canada, where she is lecturing about the early feminist. "I am afraid she wrote the book in Stone Street, Bloomsbury, not Southwark. But I am pleased that a plaque has gone up. Places like Bloomsbury and Hampstead have so many; it is only fair poor old Southwark should have one as well."

The Home Office published its annual report yesterday, complete with glossy photographs of every minister — bar one. Kenneth Baker, Angela Rumbold, John Patten and Earl Ferrers are there. The absentee? Peter Lloyd, in charge of the unglamorous portfolio of immigration. How very unfair.



FROZEN IN HEADLIGHTS

Suppose the general election had been held last November. Suppose the Tories had won with an overall majority. How then would the government respond to yesterday's poor unemployment figures? In detail no one knows. But few Tories would be urging inaction. Towards the end of 1991, the economic indicators were evenly balanced. Some suggested that recovery was starting. Others seemed less encouraging. In those circumstances, the cabinet's decision to initiate no economic invigoration but hope for spontaneous recombination was understandable, albeit a decision which this newspaper disliked.

Yesterday's unemployment figures, following a series of indicators and forecasts revised in a pessimistic direction, confirm that the government was wrong. The figures are not, as Tony Blair for Labour claimed "devastating", since they are only a little worse than the depressing trend established over 22 successive months. But nor are they merely "disappointing", as the prime minister said in the House of Commons. A trend is a trend, the point about this one being that it shows little sign of bending. If anything, unemployment is getting worse. Even the Bank of England was forced to concede in its assessment of the economy on Tuesday that the recovery is proving "elusive".

A post-election Conservative government might have concluded that the economy was crippled by a lack of consumer confidence, and cut taxes. Or, despairing for now of the consumer, it might have opted for a direct boost through a crash programme of public works. Less likely, it might have concluded that cutting the excessive cost of borrowing would be the most prudent and least interventionist way of rekindling confidence among consumers and investors alike. After an election, a free-market government might have been more willing to cut interest rates and risked sterling's position in the exchange-rate mechanism of the EMS.

These economic arguments apply even though there was no autumn election — and

even though there is one in the offing. Not for many years past has the balance of economic risk been so one-sided, in favour of an expansionist stance. Because of the impending election, expansionism that might with hindsight have seemed wise last year now seems too politically risky. The prime minister and his chancellor have pinned their colours to the recovery mast since the spring of 1991. They now seem tied up in the rigging of their unrealised predictions.

Politicians are strangely compelled to pretend infallibility, none more so than ministers who, until recently, had tasted little of the bitterness of economic failure. The recession of 1981 was roundly blamed on the previous Labour government. So ministers go on talking up what resolutely refuses to be talked up. They excuse the actions of 1987-8 as if they were of a completely different administration and plead "world recession" as the cause of their plight. Paddy Ashdown caught the mood when he said they were like a "frightened rabbit caught in the headlights of a general election".

The Tories' hope must be that yesterday's barrage of bad news might be the last such day before polling; a bit of massaging all round and next month might look a little better. But almost a million people have been put out of work since the recession began, many of them certainly Tories. They have long given the government the benefit of the doubt, especially since they share ministerial doubts about Labour's capacity to do better. But patience is wearing thin.

The government can still head off its critics and the key lies with the Budget and the manifesto. Ministers could well imitate the Americans, make a cleaner breast of past failures and poor forecasts and indicate what plans are in hand to help expand the economy. What is needed is a frankly expansionist Budget. If there were no election pending, that is what Norman Lamont would do. The prospect of a little teasing from his opponents should not deter him.

PEACE-KEEPING PERILS

After an anxious delay that jeopardised a fragile ceasefire, the United Nations secretary general has at last formally recommended the deployment of peace-keeping forces in Yugoslavia. Up to 11,500 men from more than a dozen countries will be sent as soon as possible to the disputed enclaves in Croatia, now occupied by the Yugoslav federal army.

This is an open-ended commitment, one of the largest peace-keeping operations ever mounted, costing nearly £250 million a year. The troops may prevent fighting spreading to Bosnia-Herzegovina, but they cannot defuse the ethnic tensions or guarantee minority rights. The opposition of extreme Serbian and Croatian nationalists makes the troops a likely target for terrorists.

Cyrus Vance, the special UN envoy to Yugoslavia, was reluctant to recommend deployment as long as the diehard leaders of the Serbian enclaves, especially Milan Babic in Krajina, opposed any UN presence. Belgrade has put strong pressure on the dissident dentist, whose resistance has at last been bypassed. But Mr Babic has exploited the delay to galvanise Serbian opposition to Krajina's return to Croatia. This in turn has stiffened the determination of President Tudjman to retake all the Croatian land lost to the Serbian onslaught.

Elsewhere in Yugoslavia there are signs of new realism. Slobodan Milosevic, the chastened Serbian leader, appears to have moderated his territorial ambitions after his virtual isolation by the world community. In Sarajevo yesterday Muslim, Serbian and Croatian leaders began talks under the aegis of Lord Carrington's European Community peace forum on resolving disputes, an essential prerequisite to Bosnia's referendum on independence at the end of the month.

The main danger to the peace process now comes from Croatia, where the far right is revealing itself more and more as a quasi-fascist force that cares little for world opinion or the guarantees given to the European Community on human rights. President

Tudjman has pocketed EC recognition, as Britain and several others feared, without enacting the promised legislation to protect Serbian rights. Indeed, his government, provocatively, is now seeking to use the UN presence in the captured territories as a cover to extend Croatian control of Serbian towns and villages. Not only does Zagreb want to replace Serbian police with Croats, the cause of the original flare-ups seven months ago, but it now wants to exercise a tighter Croatian grip in defiance of Mr Vance's recommendation that civil administration should reflect the ethnic balance.

Mr Tudjman, having lost a third of his territory with little to show his supporters, is under strong pressure from nationalists more extreme even than him. The "Danke Deutschland" euphoria in Croatia that followed recognition has led to an unpleasant glorification of the wartime fascist alliance. To its credit, Germany will have none of this. Having used up so much credit with its partners by insisting on early recognition, Bonn now feels a special duty to hold Croatia to the EC conditions, and is pressing Mr Tudjman hard over his apparent backsliding.

Europe has some leverage still. Croatia is seeking to join the UN, a move that must be resisted until Zagreb changes its legislation on minority rights, as the EC special human rights investigators proposed. The Carrington mission must continue in tandem with the UN deployment, for it offers the only hope of a political solution based on the reluctant promises made by both sides. Already the Croats are qualifying support for the UN peace-keeping operation by insisting it is temporary.

The United Nations cannot be drawn into the political fight for control in Serbian-populated Croatia. The soldiers are needed to prevent Serbs and Croats shooting at each other. The rest of Europe must now use brutal political and economic pressure to enforce a *modus vivendi* that will enable the troops to be withdrawn sooner rather than later.

A DEADLY PLOT

"Any attempt at recovering the bodies was absolutely hopeless, and there, deep down in that dreadful cauldron of swirling water and seething foam, will lie for all time the most dangerous criminal and the foremost champion of the law of their generation." Thus Arthur Conan Doyle bade farewell to his detective hero Sherlock Holmes at the Reichenbach Falls in *The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes*.

Almost a century later Inspector Morse, the introspective, opera-loving Oxford policeman, has been threatened with a similar fate. In the final episode of the television series the producers wanted Morse, a Wagner fan, to be bumped off in Bayreuth, no doubt accompanied by the *Immolation of Brünnhilde* from Morse's beloved *Götterdämmerung*. However, the creator of the character, Colin Dexter, was forced to step in and save the old boy, largely because lucrative publishing contracts mean that he is worth more alive than dead. "I would not be doing myself any favours by having him killed," said the author, explaining his mercy to his bank manager. "Anyway I like him."

Conan Doyle faced a similar dilemma. Unlike Mr Dexter, he grew to despise Holmes and regarded him as an irritating distraction from his real work: uplifting and today largely unread historical dramas and psychic research. Then as now there was a huge public thirst for more cases to be solved by the master detective. Eventually a need for cash forced the writer to give way and resurrect poor Holmes from the deep. There

are those who insist he was never quite the same again. There are indeed those who insist he was an impostor.

Just as it wants happy endings, the public demands that certain heroes should be immortal. In this the public is right. Some heroes, such as James Bond, have lived on after the death of their creator: in 007's case he stars in a novel written by a pseudonymous Sir Kingsley Amis. Even Shakespeare was forced to bring back Falstaff, Lazarus-like, for a final bow in *Merry Wives of Windsor*. Queen Elizabeth, no less, is said to have insisted that the old rogue featured in the play, despite the Bard having done him to death in *Henry V*.

In popular drama and fiction, the best-seller lists and the television and film ratings are the arbiters of life expectancy. The murder of Bobby Ewing in *Dallas* quickly became a "bad dream" when the scriptwriters realised they needed him as a vital counterforce to the evil JR, himself also brought back from apparent mortality by the plaintive cry of the cash register. Even Tinkerbell makes a comeback when children affirm that they believe in fairies at the end of *Peter Pan*.

This is a thoroughly happy meeting of culture and free-market economy. Eleven million people tune in every week to watch Morse tackle another baffling case. They like his dry wit, his good taste and his noble spirit; they want him to carry on. A great detective cheats even death. Virtue surely demands this ultimate triumph.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Some support for Jacques Delors?

From Sir Anthony Meyer, MP for Chesham North West (Conservative)

Sir, The government is to be applauded for its determination to retain the concession which limits the United Kingdom's share of the European Community budget, and especially for its pledge to do so "firmly and courteously", to use Mr Chris Patten's felicitous phrasing (report, February 13). But is it really wise for both major parties, and for you, Sir (leading article, February 13), to oppose any increase in the European Community's total budget?

There must be huge cuts in the agriculture budget, but they can be achieved only by generous compensation to farmers to get them permanently out of production. That involves an actual increase in payments in the short term to get a lasting reduction in the long term. And if the Community is to bring in the newly free countries of Eastern Europe, as the British government is the first to insist, then the regional aid budget will have to be much more than doubled in order to speed the modernisation of their economies.

It is asking a lot of our politicians to admit, on the eve of a general election, that Jacques Delors, president of the European Commission, is right, but they should leave themselves some room to admit it after the election.

I am etc.
ANTHONY MEYER,
House of Commons.

From Mr Nicholas Colchester

Sir, The "simple" case your leading article makes against the EC's exorbitant budget is simply wrong. Proper, Gatt-friendly reform of Europe's farm policy may well require an increase in what it costs exchequers.

The chief evil of the common agricultural policy is what it costs consumers in high, rigged prices — roughly £47 billion a year — rather than the £27 billion it costs in government subsidies.

The £47 billion is a devious, entrenched cost to society which shows gross indiscriminate benefit on farmers. The £27 billion is a more open form of aid, more easily aimed at the needy farmer, potentially less trade-distorting and subject to public scrutiny. It is the rigging and defending of unreal prices that makes the CAP so harmful to world trade.

By all means curb the ambitions of the Brussels Commission, but do not curb its tender ambition to bring European farm prices down to earth, even if the help to thus-wounded small farmers costs the Treasury more.

Sincerely,
NICO COLCHESTER
(Deputy Editor),
The Economist,
25 St James's Street, SW1.
February 13.

EC and environment

From the Chief Executive of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

Sir, Your leader ("Off the target", February 5) on the European Commission's proposals for a programme and policy-level directive on environmental assessments is only half right.

The Commission's proposals seek to put into practice the "precautionary principle", to examine the potential impact on the environment of major investment programmes at the earliest opportunity. This would allow fundamental questions to be asked at the stage when they would be most effective. Controversial developments which required detailed assessments would have a swifter passage if potentially damaging elements were examined from the outset.

The all too frequently vital question of how we use and develop the countryside is not asked from an environmental perspective. This is a major shortcoming at Community as well as national level. The Commission's proposals would raise environmental matters to the same level as social and economic issues at the policy planning stage.

European flag

From Mr Cosmo Russell

Sir, The European flag (letter, February 3) came to life in the early Fifties as the flag of the Council of Europe after much discussion in which, as an official, I was privileged to take part. The agreed heraldic description reads: "On a field azure a circle of twelve mullets or their points not touching".

The number twelve was considered a perfect and unchangeable figure reflecting examples in nature and human endeavour, e.g., the twelve apostles, twelve signs of the Zodiac, etc. There has never been any question of changing this to match membership of the Council of Europe, for long in excess of twelve. It is only a chance that Community membership is twelve today.

Many years after the first adoption it was accepted unanimously by the Community, starting with the parliament. It flies outside the Brussels home of the Community alongside the national flags of Community members and of course in Strasbourg. It was the European flag before and is simple, colourful and recognisable. Change would have to be agreed by both institutions — the parent Council of Europe and its child, the European Community. This is highly unlikely.

Yours etc.,
COSMO RUSSELL,
Parapet House,
Lenham, Kent.
February 6.

Hard comparisons

From the Chairman of Pentos

Sir, The death of the hardback novel is much exaggerated by Clive Davis ("Burial rites of the hardback", *Life & Times*, February 6). True, sales of hardback fiction are pathetically low: the real question for the book trade is how it breaks out of the vicious circle of ever higher prices and ever smaller volumes. My conviction is that the agreement between W. H. Smith and several publishers to publish first-time novels in paperback is not the way forward.

First, the switch to paperback as the vehicle of first publication will devalue the product. Instead of thinking, "Here is something good at a lower price", the bookbuyer will think, "Here is something second best which is still pretty expensive by the standards of normal paperbacks".

Secondly, the initiative will do little

to widen the market for books. The key to this is secondary purchasing by bookbuyers who are attracted into bookshops by lower-price promotions. The W. H. Smith average high street shop simply does not have the range within its book department to achieve this.

Thirdly, authors and literary agents will see their royalties per unit sale considerably reduced. It is an open question whether in total the elasticity of demand for cheaper, paperback titles will more than make up for that loss.

The Dillons' approach of selective discounts on hardback fiction which are heavily promoted, set in the context of a chain of bookshops of unparalleled range and quality, is likely to bring much more positive results. But that requires publishers to follow Reed's example and withdraw from the ludicrous restrictions of the net book agreement.

Yours faithfully,
T. A. MAHER,
Chairman,
Pentos plc,
9 Clifford Street, W1.
February 7.

Higher education

From Professor Emeritus David Bell

Sir, There has been a campaign for wider access to higher education and there has been a suggestion that 30 per cent of school pupils should proceed to it, but what does this mean? We used to reckon that an IQ of 120 was appropriate for a university honours degree but taking 30 per cent of the population would mean going down to an IQ of 108.

It will take 11 years before the present seven-year-olds, who alone have had the national curriculum from the start, face entrance to higher education at 18. The immediate need is not to put more students into higher education (universities and polytechnics) but to expand further education where the topics and teaching methods can be more appropriate.

What we must not do is to convert higher education into further education or ask the institutions of higher education to provide both without additional resources. I know how difficult that is, because I have tried to do it in the past.

Alternatively if we are looking for a broadening intermediary between school and life (compare the grand tour of Europe for the wealthy of a century ago), the Liberal Arts College might provide a useful model.

Yours faithfully,
D. A. BELL,
87 East End, Wokingham,
Berkshire, Hants.
February 4.

Limiting warheads total in Trident

From Dr Stephen Pullinger

Sir, Lord Orr-Ewing is absolutely correct (letter, February 6) in warning against adopting a fixed level of warheads for Trident. That figure must always be dependent on maintaining the ability to inflict unacceptable damage on a potential adversary. This surty will be contingent on the anti-ballistic missile defences confronting Trident.

Whilst the government has set an upper limit of 128 warheads per boat it has readily acknowledged that in certain circumstances the number could be "substantially fewer than 128 warheads", as Douglas Hogg, a Foreign Office minister, told the House of Commons (report, later editions, February 4). The defence secretary has even alluded to the possibility of Trident carrying fewer warheads than Polaris, i.e., 48 per boat, as long as the necessary credibility was preserved.

If HMG were to decide that it could maintain Trident at a credible minimum deterrent with no more warheads than Polaris it would negate charges that its policy was escalatory. However, such an initial deployment should not be set in stone: Trident provides the flexibility to go lower if ABM defences remain strictly controlled or higher if the ABM treaty breaks down and ABM defences proliferate.

Out of court

From Mr Anthony D. Woolf

Sir, It was heartening to read Philip Naughton's article ("Better out of court", *Law Times*, February 4) on the progress of alternative dispute resolution (ADR), not least for his emphasis on mediation.

By contrast, the Adam Smith Institute's publication to which he refers, *Judgement Day* by Adam Thierier, promotes the idea of court-ordered arbitrations and various short-cut routes to the imposition of binding decisions, all as comprised within ADR. That has been rightly attacked as second-class justice and could give ADR a bad name.

The beauty of mediation or conciliation, as recognised in rules of court in our Family Division, is that it is a completely voluntary, confidential and privileged process. It deprives one of their legal rights, which is what makes it "safe" for warring adversaries to take part and makes a high success rate possible.

Wild mammals Bill

From Professor Roger Scruton

Sir, On Friday, February 14, the House of Commons will debate a Private Member's Bill ostensibly designed to protect "wild mammals".

Why mammals are more vulnerable to pain, fear or death than are wild birds, fish or reptiles the Bill does not explain. And while outlawing the use of dogs in hunting, the Bill says nothing against cats, ferrets or falcons. In short, the Bill does not seem to us to be designed to protect wildlife, but to attack a particular section of the community — hunters and their followers — who have done more to protect habitats and preserve the balance of nature than any number of urban animal-lovers.

Hunting with hounds, when conducted according to its own rules, is far from being the cruel sport

Whites of their eyes

From Squadron Leader D. R. Childs, RAF

Sir, Your report (February 11) suggested that there is less demand for white eggs than brown and says that they sell for no more than 20 pence a dozen. I find it impossible to find white eggs for sale at any price in the Doncaster area: there can be no demand for what is not available. I suspect that there are very many who would be happy to buy even white eggs at 20p.

The dearth is particularly sad at this season: it is very difficult to decorate brown eggs at Easter time as was once the widespread custom.

Yours etc.,
DAVID CHILDS,
Royal Air Force College,
Cranwell, Leicestershire.
February 11.

From Mr Keith Gowen

Sir, I have recently purchased a hardback book and a paperback. The appearance of the hardback is undistinguished, with an unimaginative dust-jacket design, and how long will it be before the pages turn yellow? There are new books on the shelves of retailers with the pages turning yellow even before they have been sold.

The paperback, on the other hand, is a pleasure to handle. It has a well designed cover, the margins are generous, the paper is of good quality, the illustrations interesting, and the pages part down the spine without the necessity of employing a vice to keep the centre of the book apart.

If publishers can produce reasonably priced paperbacks of this quality then aspiring new authors and the reading public need have no qualms.

Yours faithfully,
KEITH GOWEN,
Westgate Cottage,
23 Westgate, Cowbridge,
South Glamorgan.
February 7.

HMG should attach these caveats to any definition of what constitutes a credible minimum deterrent.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN PULLINGER
(Executive Director),
International Security Information Service,
St James's Rectory,
197 Piccadilly, W1.
February 7.

From Air Commodore A. Mackie

Sir, Lord Orr-Ewing's cautionary tale about Trident tells us to avoid repeating our past mistake of keeping our deterrent too small by the "right decision" to make it bigger.

The financial trap he counsels us thereby to avoid is not the one that should preoccupy us. The real worry is that Lord Orr-Ewing's counterparts in the service of Saddam, Gadhafi and Lord knows who else must doubtless be offering similar advice — in essence that keeping or developing the capacity to blow up the world will somehow make it safer.

Yours faithfully,
A. MACKIE,
(Vice-President),
Campaign for Nuclear
Disarmament,
162 Holloway Road, N7.
February 7.

Most disputes are still settled by negotiation, and any good solicitor should make or seize opportunities whenever possible. When a mediator is needed it is because the negotiations are tough and difficult. The mediator represents neither side's interest and representation is often needed, especially when parties are unevenly matched. The mediator must also be paid for.

If, however, there is a strong cost-benefit case for more government investment in providing ADR services (quite apart from the social case) then legally-aided parties should be supported, not penalised, for using them. No one should be forced into second-class justice; but if an enhanced rate of truly amicable settlements can be achieved, the pressures in that direction will be greatly reduced.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY D. WOOLF,
Freedman & Co (solicitors),
24-27 Thayer Street, W1.
February 5.

described by those opposed to it. It is a natural, humane and environmentally friendly way of controlling and dispersing fox populations in rural areas. It is also an integral part of rural life.

To make this innocent pursuit into a crime would be an abuse of parliamentary power. We hope that MPs will see this question in perspective and recognise that sentimental and misguided passion is not an adequate basis for curtailing the historic liberties of our country.

Yours sincerely,
ROGER SCRUTON,
MICHAEL CHARLTON,
IAN CURTIS,
JOHN LETTIS,
PIERS PAUL READ,
NORMAN STONE,
TONY TROLLOPE,
5 Trenchard Road,
Stanton Fitzwarren, Wiltshire.
February 11.

Order of the bath

From Mr Chris Heald

Sir, From your report (February 12), "Britain comes clean over bathroom antics", it would appear I am unique. I spend my time in the bath washing myself. This category does not seem to appear in the survey analysis.

Yours etc.,
CHRIS HEALD,
10 Hitherwood Drive, SE19.
February 13.

From Mr Roger J. Southam

Sir, It would appear from the survey that in their baths the Welsh do not drink alcohol or coffee, eat, apply beauty treatments, wash their dogs, have sex or think, and only a very small minority appear to read, wash their hair, listen to music, dream, talk on the telephone or clip their toenails.

What else could they be doing?

Yours confused,
R. J. SOUTHAM,
Hope House,
Great Peter Street, SW1.
February 12.

From Mrs J. M. Pattman

Sir, Nine inches of bathwater (your third leader today)? Far too luxurious for wartime Britain.

Our bath had a line painted a mere five inches above the plughole. On complaining about a skimpy and not too hot bath, I remember being told that since King George himself bathed in five inches of water that should be quite sufficient for his subjects too.

Ever since those chilly early experiences my idea of sinful and extravagant bliss has been a piping hot tub, filled to the overflow, and time to enjoy it.

Yours faithfully,
JUDITH PATTMAN,
25 Fentiman Road, SW8.
February 12.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 13: The Queen held an investiture at Buckingham Palace this morning.

Mr Duncan Slater was received in audience by Her Majesty upon his appointment as High Commissioner to Malaysia.

Mrs Slater was also received by The Queen.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh this afternoon opened the Retrospective Exhibition of the Royal Fine Art Commission at St James's Square, London SW1. Her Majesty and His Royal Highness were received by Lord St John of Fawley (Chairman) and Mr Sherban Cantacuzino (Secretary).

The Duchess of Grafton, Sir Kenneth Scott, Lieutenant Colonel Blair Stewart Wilson and Lieutenant Colonel David Buchanan were in attendance.

By command of The Queen, the Viscount Long, Lord in Waiting, was present at Heathrow Airport, London, this morning upon the departure of The Prince of Wales to Qatar, and bade farewell to His Highness on behalf of Her Majesty.

By command of The Queen, the Viscount Long, Lord in Waiting, called upon the President of the Republic of Zambia at the Churchill Hotel, Portman Square, London W1, and welcomed His Excellency on behalf of Her Majesty on his arrival in this country.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron and Trustee of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, this morning attended a reception at the Office of Municipal Mutual Insurance, Old Queen Street, London SW1.

Lieutenant Commander Malcolm Sillars, RN, was in attendance.

His Royal Highness, Patron, Sail Training Association, this evening attended a dinner to mark the Silver Jubilee of the Schooner Sir Winston Churchill at Trinity House, London EC3.

Brigadier Miles Hunt-Davis was in attendance.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 13: The Prince Edward today attended a lunch in support of the British Paralympic Association at 84 Eccleston Square, London SW1.

Lieutenant Colonel Sean O'Dwyer was in attendance.

His Royal Highness this evening attended the Fortham Anniversary Maple Leaf Ball organised by the Canadian Women's Club at Grosvenor House Hotel, London W1.

Mrs Richard Warburton was in attendance.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 13: The Princess Royal, Colonel-in-Chief, The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment), visited the First Battalion at Fort George, Argyllshire, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Inverness (Lieutenant Commander Lachlan Mackintosh of Mackintosh, RN) and Brigadier C.D.M. Ritchie (Colonel of the Regiment).

Mrs Charles Ritchie was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
February 13: The Duke of Gloucester this afternoon was present at a luncheon given by the Confederation of British South East Asian Societies at the International Hotel, Hyde Park Corner, London W1.

Major Nicholas Barne was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
February 13: The Duke of Kent, Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England, today attended a Rulers' Lunch at the Grosvenor Hotel, Great Queen Street, London WC2.

Commander Roger Walker was in attendance.

The Prince of Liechtenstein celebrates his birthday today.

Today's royal engagements

The Duke of Kent, as Vice-Chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, will visit E.B. Signal (UK), Plymouth, at 10.55; Toshiba Consumer Products at 12.25; and Sola Wessels and Leisurewear at 2.30.

Lord Rodgers

The life barony conferred upon William Thomas Rodgers has been gazetted by the name, style and title of Baron Rodgers of Quarry Bank, of Kentish Town in the London borough of Camden.

Clifton College

The following awards have been made: Blue Scholarships: Angela Blofield, Blue Coat School, Birmingham; Oles Derren, Lichfield Cathedral School; Music Exhibition: Angela Hadfield, Clifton College Preparatory School.

BIRTHS

ADOCK - On January 29th, 1992, to Joanna (nee MacLennan) and Christopher, a daughter.

ASHWORTH - On February 10th, to Juliet and William, a daughter, Lily.

CODRILL - On February 12th, to Tristram and Victoria, a daughter, Lorna.

CORNWELL - On February 11th, 1992, at Guy's Hospital, London, to Margaret and Grant, a daughter, Amy.

DEBANK LAMPARD - On February 8th, to Duncan and a beautiful daughter, Catherine.

FAGGETTER - On Monday February 10th, to Amanda and Graham, a daughter, Victoria Anne May.

FABE - On February 8th, 1992, to Linda and John, a son, James.

HEATH - On January 30th, 1992, to Victoria and Geoffrey, a son, James.

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Mr Allan Thompson

A service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Mr Allan Thompson, BDS, MRCS, LRCP, FDS, late Consultant Dental Surgeon Emeritus to Guy's Dental Hospital, of Strand House, Amersham, and 40 Hadley Street, London, will be held in the Guy's Hospital Chapel, St Thomas Street, London, SE1, on Friday, March 6, 1992, at noon.

Lady Caroline Waterhouse

A memorial service for Lady Caroline Waterhouse will be held at St Paul's, Knightsbridge, on Thursday, May 21, at noon.

Westminster School

The Governing Body of Westminster School is pleased to announce the election to Honorary Fellowship of Sir Paul Wright, KCMG, an Old Westminister.

Appointments

Mr John Brunel Cohen, Mr Derek Fenton and Surgeon Captain Malcolm Taylor, RNR, are to be Deputy Lieutenants for Greater London.

BIRTHS

STEPHENS - On February 11th, at North General Hospital, to Jennifer (nee Vermeulen) and David, a son, Christian David Elie.

THOMAS - On February 8th, 1992, to Joanna (nee MacLennan) and Christopher, a daughter.

ASHWORTH - On February 10th, to Juliet and William, a daughter, Lily.

CODRILL - On February 12th, to Tristram and Victoria, a daughter, Lorna.

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The athlete Roger Black shows off the MBE he received at a Buckingham Palace investiture yesterday. Black took a break from his training for the Olympics to be among the 134 people who were presented with honours

Birthdays today

The Right Rev Peter Ball, Bishop of Lewes, and his twin brother, the Right Rev Michael Ball, Bishop of Truro, 60; Sir John Clark, former chairman, The Plessey Company, 66; Professor Evelyn Ebsworth, vice-chancellor, Durham University, 59; Sir Arnold Elton, consultant surgeon, 72; Sir Jack Hibbert, director, Central Statistical Office, 60; Sir Derrick Holden-Brown, former chairman, Allied-Lyons, 69; Miss K.M. Jenkins, former director of personnel, Royal Mail, 47; Mr Kevin Keegan, footballer, 44; Mr John MacGregor, MP, 55; Miss Manuela Malavea, tennis player, 25; Countess Mountbatten of Burma, 68; Professor Sir Charles Oatley, electrical engineer, 88; the Hon Hastings Phillips, former Lord Lieutenant of Dyfed, 88; Lord Rossmore, 61; Mr Michael Rudman, theatre director and producer, 53; Sir Albert Sloman, former vice-chancellor, Essex University, 71; Mr Jocelyn Stevens, actor, Royal College of Art, 60; Mr D.M. Stewart, principal, Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, 62; Mr A.W.H. Stewart-Moore, former chairman, Gallaher, 77; Sir David Wilson (life peer), Governor of Hong Kong, 57.

Luncheon

HM Government. The Hon Douglas Hurd, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, held a luncheon yesterday at Carlton Gardens in honour of Mr Frederick Chiluba, President of Zambia.

Appointments

Mr John Brunel Cohen, Mr Derek Fenton and Surgeon Captain Malcolm Taylor, RNR, are to be Deputy Lieutenants for Greater London.

Dinners

British Academy of Forensic Sciences. Dr Patrick J. Lincoln presided at a dinner of the Friends of the British Academy of Forensic Sciences held last night at the Law Society, Mr J. Griffith Williams, QC, and Sir David Napley, director of the academy, also spoke.

Reception

HM Government. Mr Michael Forsyth, Minister of State at the Scottish Office, was host at a reception given by His Majesty's Government last night in Edinburgh Castle for employees of the Lothian Health Board.

Royal Fine Art Commission

The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, honoured the Royal Fine Art Commission by opening its retrospective exhibition "On the Side of the Angels" at 7 St James's Square on Thursday, February 13. Her Majesty and His Royal Highness were received by Lord St John of Fawley, Chairman of the Commission, and Mr Sherban Cantacuzino, Secretary. Among those present were:

The Belgian Ambassador, the French Ambassador, the German Ambassador, the Italian Ambassador, the Portuguese Ambassador, the Spanish Ambassador, the Swiss Ambassador, the Turkish Ambassador, the Yugoslav Ambassador, the Australian Ambassador, the Canadian Ambassador, the New Zealand Ambassador, the Irish Ambassador, the Greek Ambassador, the Cypriot Ambassador, the Maltese Ambassador, the Danish Ambassador, the Norwegian Ambassador, the Swedish Ambassador, the Finnish Ambassador, the Icelandic Ambassador, the Portuguese Ambassador, the Spanish Ambassador, the Swiss Ambassador, the Turkish Ambassador, the Yugoslav Ambassador, the Australian Ambassador, the Canadian Ambassador, the New Zealand Ambassador, the Irish Ambassador, the Greek Ambassador, the Cypriot Ambassador, the Maltese Ambassador, the Danish Ambassador, the Norwegian Ambassador, the Swedish Ambassador, the Finnish Ambassador, the Icelandic Ambassador.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Thomas Malthus, economist and demographer, 1768; William Dyce, painter, 1806; Frank Harris, writer, 1858; Zola, novelist and philanthropist, 1858.

Deaths

DEATHS: Richard II, reigned 1377-99, murdered, Pontefract castle, 1400; John Hadley, pioneer of the sextant, Essex, 1743-4; Captain James Cook, murdered by natives, Hawaii, 1779.

LEGAL NOTICES

F.W.O. BAUGH LIMITED
Notified member 0423296. Notice of business of the company of Professional Recording Audio and Video Engineers, 100, Tottenham Court Road, London W1P 0LP, is hereby given. The company is to be dissolved. The date of dissolution is 12th February 1992. The name of the person to be dissolved is F.W.O. Baugh Limited. The date of dissolution is 12th February 1992. The name of the person to be dissolved is F.W.O. Baugh Limited.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
That the company of F.W.O. Baugh Limited, of 100, Tottenham Court Road, London W1P 0LP, is to be dissolved. The date of dissolution is 12th February 1992. The name of the person to be dissolved is F.W.O. Baugh Limited.

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Mr S.A. Appleyard and Miss A.C. Widenfeld
The engagement is announced between Stephen, son of Mr Brian Appleyard, of Harrogate, and Miss Pauline Appleyard, of Knaresborough, Yorkshire, and Anne, daughter of the late Goran Widenfeld, of Stockholm, Sweden. The marriage will take place at Cannes, France, in September, 1992.

Mr E. Benito and Miss A. O'Gorman
The engagement is announced between Eduardo Benito, and Andrea, daughter of Mr and Mrs Patrick O'Gorman.

Mr A. Cameron and Miss C. Chapman
The engagement is announced between Alan Cameron, of Bath, and Cammy, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Jeffrey Chapman, of Aylsham, Norfolk.

Captain P.H. Claude and Miss C.C. Claude
The engagement is announced between Captain Peter Claude, 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers, second son of Mr and Mrs T.E. Claude, of Kingston-on-Thames, Surrey, and Lucy, youngest daughter of Dr and Mrs J.M. Holt, of Tadley, Oxfordshire.

Mr T.C. Cobley and Miss D.J. Welch
The engagement is announced between Thomas, son of Mr and Mrs T. Cobley, of Langley, Berkshire, and Diana, daughter of Mr and Mrs C. Welch, of Burnwood, Staffordshire.

Mr M.J. Conroy and Miss A.J. Harris
The engagement is announced between Michael Conroy, only son of the late Mr John Conroy and of Mrs M.J. Conroy, of Woking, Surrey, and Miss A.J. Harris, daughter of Mr and Mrs L.J. Harris.

Mr M.J. Davies and Miss A.R. Chatter Robinson
The engagement is announced between Michael John, only son of the late Mr John Davies and of Mrs M.J. Davies, of Woking, Surrey, and Miss A.R. Chatter Robinson, of Essex, Essex.

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OBITUARIES

CLARK TIPPET

Clark Tippet, a former leading dancer and more recently a choreographer of American Ballet Theatre, died of Aids in his home town of Parsons, Kansas, on January 27 aged 37. He was born on October 5, 1954.

ALTHOUGH Clark Tippet showed exceptional early promise as a dancer, that career was interrupted and curtailed by problems of health, both physical and psychological. Then, when he began to fashion a new career for himself as a choreographer, that too was cut short by the increasingly debilitating effects of Aids.

London audiences saw only one of his creations, but that was by general agreement the best of them: *Some Assembly Required*. Made in 1989 and brought by American Ballet Theatre to the Coliseum in 1990, it was a lively, argumentative duet for Amanda McKerron and John Gardner, tracing a domestic relationship through several moods from aggressive quarrel to slightly cute making up. In this, Tippet found a way of giving movement an expressive twist and making use of the personality of his dancers. It marked a big improvement on the arguably too literal step-for-note abstract musical visualisation he had previously shown in *Bruch Violin Concerto*, given by ABT at the Paris International Dance Festival in 1988.

Born into a large family in the American mid-West, Tippet had to fight for attention and did so by his early interest in all theatrical activities — singing and acting equally with dancing. When he was

11 his local dancing teacher moved to work at a school in New York and he followed her there.

Six years later in 1972 he auditioned for the American Ballet Theatre School and was accepted almost instantly into the company where he was promoted to soloist at 20 and principal dancer at 21. He was quickly given a range of leading roles, helped by the fact that his height and strength made him able to partner the taller ballerinas, notably Martine van Hamel. But he found the resulting pressure too intense and he also had injuries leading to a knee operation. Consequently, after creating a part in Twyla Tharp's *Park Comes To Show* (1976) and appearing in the film *The Turning Point* (1977), he temporarily stopped dancing, still only in his early twenties.

Tippet was lured back to the stage in 1979 by Dennis Nahat, to dance with the Cleveland Ballet which he directed in Ohio. After engagements there and in Australia and Israel, Tippet felt confident enough to return to ABT, although he now abandoned the big classic roles in favour of participating in new works by choreographers including Tharp (*Back Partita*), Glen Tetley (*The Sphinx*), Kenneth MacMillan (*Requiem* by Andrew Lloyd Webber) and the modernists David Gordon and David Parsons.

He began choreography in 1987 with *Enough Said*, and during the time left to him created works for the Pacific Northwest Ballet in Seattle as well as American Ballet Theatre, but his energies were increasingly sapped by the progress of his Aids infection.



Clark Tippet partnering Martine van Hamel in *Back Partita*, choreographed by Twyla Tharp

DANIEL PARKER

Daniel Parker, grandson of the founder of the Parker Pen Company and long-time head of the firm, died at the Medical University of South Carolina on January 28 aged 66. He was born in Chicago on June 8, 1925.

THE famous fountain pen was Daniel Parker's inheritance but it was not his major interest in life. Though he joined the family firm and product development in 1950 after serving as a lieutenant in the US Marine Corps and graduating from Harvard Business School, it was not long before he started his own business on the side.

A pilot of both fixed and rotary wing aircraft, he founded a helicopter company in 1955. The firm, which became Omniflight Helicopters in 1962, ultimately grew into a worldwide maintenance service for helicopters operated by hospi-

itals, police forces and public utilities. The diversion did not stop him becoming, at 35, the youngest chief executive officer in the history of Parker Pen, which was founded in 1888. He went on to become president and chairman of the company, finally retiring as honorary chairman in 1986.

An active Republican, Parker served on numerous government bodies during the Nixon and Ford administrations. He was director of the Agency for International Development from 1973 to 1977, a member of the president's public advisory commission on trade policy from 1968 to 1969, and the president's special co-ordinator for international disaster assistance from 1971 to 1973. He was also a member of the business advisory council to the World Bank from 1977 onwards.

He leaves a widow, two sons and two daughters.

Hassan Howa, anti-apartheid sports campaigner and former president of the South African Council on Sport (SACOS), died in Capetown on February 12 aged 69. He was born on August 4, 1922.

USING a cricketing metaphor to explain the philosophy behind his determined campaign against South Africa's apartheid laws, Hassan Howa would say: "When a fast bowler hits you, beckon him down the pitch and say: 'Bowl it quicker'. Don't back away. Soon he'll be so mad, you'll be able to score as you like."

During the long years of apartheid in South Africa, Howa gave no quarter, campaigning resolutely in favour of isolating the republic totally from the rest of the world in sporting events. There could be no normality in sport, he argued, in an abnormal society. This became the South African Council on Sport's slogan.

Hassan Howa first came to international prominence as the president of the non-racial South African Cricket Board of Control which controlled the games of some 26,000 non-white cricketers. His influence infuriated the Pretoria government. It repeatedly refused him a passport in an attempt to prevent him from spreading his arguments abroad in person.

As the government began offering concessions, Howa at first refused to respond. He turned down overtures that his cricketing body should join the white cricketers' ruling body (the South African Cricket Association) and the black cricketers' ruling body (the African Cricket Board) to form a united cricket council.

His attitude was all or nothing — complete integration of teams and selection on merit, regardless of colour or anything else. Howa opposed any racially-mixed sport while apartheid laws existed at other levels of society.

Other sporting officials — particularly the white ones whose over-riding concern was to end South Africa's sporting isolation — argued that the wisest course was to accept the government's hesitant concessions towards

HASSAN HOWA



multi-racial sporting events, but for a long time Howa would have none of it. Eventually, however, as the apartheid framework began to disintegrate he moderated his approach and took part in negotiations aimed at "normalising sporting relations".

In 1987 he was ousted as president both of SACOS and the Western Province Cricket Board, which represented mainly coloured players. He was accused of holding unauthorised discussions with Dr Ali Bacher, managing director of the white South African Cricket Union, to discuss unity in the game. Their talks laid the groundwork for the establishment, last year, of the United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA), the country's re-admission to the International Test match arena and its arrival, last week, in Australia to prepare for the cricket World Cup.

Although never wavering from his lifelong revulsion against any form of prejudice,

whether based on race, religion or sex, Howa urged SACOS to open unity talks with other sports. In 1990 reconciliation came when he was honoured by the Western Cape region of SACOS for his contribution to sport. Last year he was admitted to South Africa's Gallery of Sporting Legends by the Confederation of South African Sport, an umbrella, non-racial body.

SACOS owed its formation to an incident in 1972. A group of youths started to kick a football around one Sunday afternoon when the police arrived and arrested them. The youths were mixed-race coloureds and they were accused of a breach of the Group Areas Act, the South African apartheid law, now repealed, which defined where people of different shades could live and amuse themselves. The boys were playing soccer in a white suburb.

A few months after the episode SACOS was formed and Howa was appointed vice-

president. The following year he became president and held the position until 1980. It was affiliated to the London-based South African Non-Racial Olympic Committee (SANROC) and it exerted ceaseless pressure to isolate South Africa from any international sporting competition until all vestiges of apartheid were removed. At the height of its influence SACOS claimed to represent 25 sports and a membership of two million blacks, coloureds and Asians barred through apartheid from competing on equal terms with whites.

Howa was criticised for concentrating too much on the ideological issues and neglecting the physical development of his players' facilities which were often untidy and poorly maintained.

Hassan Howa was born in Wynberg, near Capetown, one of 12 children of a Muslim father and a Christian mother, and grew up in a politically aware family — his father at one time being president of the Cape Indian Congress. He said his religiously mixed background was his most enriching experience and his 1946 marriage to his wife, Sybil, demonstrated his attitude to prejudice. The young couple's marriage was opposed by her parents on religious grounds so they eloped and he was charged with abduction before they were granted permission to marry after an application to the Supreme Court.

He only once joined a political party — in the late 1950s when he became a member of the newly-formed anti-apartheid Progressive Party. But he had to resign when the government introduced the Prohibition of Improper Political Interference Act, another apartheid measure now repealed which barred mixed-race membership of political parties.

He was a keen cricketer all his life and when age and ill-health ended his playing days continued to support his favourite teams and was always seen giving a hand with the roller between innings.

He leaves his wife and eight children.

PROFESSOR STEPHEN ELEK

Professor Stephen Dyonis Elek, emeritus professor of medical microbiology in the University of London and honorary consulting bacteriologist to St George's Hospital, London, died on January 21 aged 77. He was born in Hungary on March 24, 1914.

STEPHEN Elek was responsible for several notable advances in bacteriological and immunological research. While studying the immunology of staphylococcal and other bacterial toxins, he devised a test for recognising virulent diphtheria bacilli from patients which obviated the need to use animals for this purpose. This became known as the "Elek plate". He also described a "double diffusion gradient" system for detecting and analysing multiple systems of antigen or antibody.

Stephen Dyonis Elek was educated at the Lutheran High School, Budapest, and came to this country to study medicine at St George's Hospital Medical School, qualifying MBBS (Lond) in 1940. He obtained his MD and DPH in 1943 after specialising in bacteriology as Laking-Dakin fellow at St George's, 1942-43, and also became clinical pathologist to the Maida Vale Hospital for Nervous Diseases, 1946-47.

With the war over, he applied for and obtained British nationality. During his years in the pathology department at St George's he vigorously pursued bacteriological research and was awarded his PhD in 1948; he also became consultant bacteriologist to St George's Hospital in the same year. All of his research was soundly based and clearly presented. In 1956, with a Fulbright fellowship, he worked with John Hanks at Harvard Medical School. This visit was to familiarise himself with tissue-culture techniques as a possible approach to the



problem of obtaining growth of the bacilli of leprosy *in vitro*; at that time it was not even possible to grow them in animals. This was not successful, nor has it been since, though growth in animals has been achieved. However, this was the start of a leprosy research group in his department, which has continued up to the present.

On his return from Harvard, the pathology department at St George's was divided into four departments, one for each of the constituent sub-specialties of pathology, and Elek was appointed to the chair of medical microbiology and to be head of the department of medical microbiology. In 1958 he was

awarded DSc (Lond) on the basis of published research work. Meanwhile, Elek's interest in the important staphylococci that cause boils and more serious purulent infections had continued, and in 1959 his book *Staphylococcus pyogenes and its relation to disease* was published. This book was recognised as authoritative and, together with the immunological studies already mentioned, led to the names of Stephen Elek and St George's Hospital Medical School becoming known around the world.

He obtained MRCP in 1960 and became FRCP in 1971; he was a founder member of the College of Pathologists when it was inaugurated in 1962, and became FRCPATH in 1964. On his initiative, in 1966, the Public Health Laboratory Service established a Public Health Laboratory (directed by Dr D. G. Fleck) to join the Tooting section of the St George's microbiology department. This was only the second instance of such an association of a public health laboratory with a medical school (the first was at Cambridge), and it has been most fruitful. In 1973 Elek retired, foreseeing the increased bureaucracy that would result from the first of the NHS reorganisations of the next year.

Elek had strong artistic sensibilities (excluding music) and was himself a most accomplished sculptor. His favourite recreation was to make busts of friends and colleagues; busts which combined the highest artistic content and instant recognisability of the subject. His bronze head, "Dr Anthony Felling" (senior neurologist at St George's), was accepted for the Royal Academy's Summer Exhibition of 1950.

In 1947 he married Sarah Joanna Hall; they had three daughters.

Danes find hall of the Viking kings

BY CHRISTOPHER FOLLETT

DANISH archaeologists believe they have found the ancient seat of Denmark's first Viking dynasty, confirming the historical basis of legends told in the Nordic sagas. Large traces of the rolling countryside around Lejre, near Roskilde, to the west of Copenhagen, an area abounding in burial mounds and Viking stone tombs, have been designated as an archaeological site which archaeologists have been excavating since 1986 in the hope of unearthing traces of the earliest Viking kings.

The sagas relate that Lejre was the chief city of Denmark's first Viking royal family — the "Skjold" (in English Skjoldung) dynasty — dating to about AD500. Nordic myths

tell that King Skjold — the name means shield — was so called because he made his first mysterious appearance asleep in a boat lying on a shield. The dynasty lasted at least a century, through Skjold's successors, Halldan, Roar, Helge and Rolf Krake. The oldest known reference to the dynasty's heroic and bloody exploits is in the eighth century Anglo-Saxon epic poem *Beowulf*. Set in the period of the Germanic migrations in the fourth to seventh centuries, the poem places Herot, the hall of the Skjoldung king Hrothgar, at Lejre.

Tom Christensen of Roskilde museum, the archaeologist in charge of the Lejre dig, said: "Although we must be

careful not to read too much into the findings so far, there is evidence that the sagas linking Lejre with the Skjoldung kings might be based on fact. I am convinced that we have uncovered a royal residence dating from the time of the sagas."

The Danish team has discovered a boat-shaped Viking longhouse, 165ft long, 33ft high and 1,800 square feet in area. Only foundations of the huge hall and outhouses remain, as the construction was of wood.

The longhouse building is twice the size of other halls discovered in Denmark, similar to contemporary Viking age royal manors at Nidaros in Norway and Cheddar in Wessex. The size of the build-

ing and the quality of the artefacts unearthed, including ornamental bronze stud decorations for swords and sheathes, brooches, keys, pottery and a large quantity of jewellery, indicate that the hall was more than an ordinary farmhouse building.

The longhouse and outbuildings found so far date from around AD800, several centuries after the Skjoldung dynasty, but evidence of two almost identical earlier edifices has been found in lower levels of earth and carbon-14 dated in recent tests to the seventh century, convincing archaeologists that the site dates back even earlier. The dimensions of the hall were calculated from 200 post-hole marks on the ground.

THEODOR GASTER

Theodor Herzl Gaster, a British-born scholar of comparative religion who worked on the original translation of the Dead Sea Scrolls, died in Philadelphia on February 3 aged 85. He was born in London in 1906.

DURING an academic career that spanned five decades Theodor Gaster worked to make the myths and fables of the ancient world accessible to large audiences. Literate in 29 languages and dialects, he delved among the writings of the early Hittites, Canaanites, Hebrews, Greeks and Romans, seeking to understand the stories in the context of the time they were created.

His approach differed from that of his better-known contemporary, the late Joseph Campbell, who saw myth as a story from which the modern reader might gain some insight. Gaster, by contrast, viewed it as a testament to a different mind-set and questioned whether it was possible to translate fable into today's terms. "That world is gone," he used to say.

None the less, he produced a number of popular works, including *Older Stories in the World*, *The New Golden Bough*, *Thespis*, *Myth, Legend and Custom in the Old Testament*, and *The Holy and the Profane: Evolution of Jewish Folkways*. His book on the scrolls, *Dead Sea Scriptures*, sold more than 200,000 copies.

Born the son of Moses Gaster, a chief rabbi of the

Sephardic Jews, who named him after his friend Theodor Herzl, the founder of Zionism, Gaster attended the University of London where he studied Greek, Latin and archaeology.

He gained his PhD from Columbia University in 1943 and remained in the United States teaching there and at several other American universities. From 1968 to 1972 he was chairman of the religion department at Barnard College.

David Marcus, associate professor of Bible at the Jewish Theological Seminary in Manhattan, describes Gaster as "an old-fashioned scholar who would spend hours in the library digging up arcane facts." His reputation among his students, however, was intimidating and he acquired a certain notoriety for yelling, "Go away!" whenever they knocked on his study door. This manner did not endear him to academic committees, many of which rejected his applications for tenure. Gaster's talents were more appreciated outside the narrow confines of his own campus.

He received two Guggenheim fellowships and two Fulbright professorships, one in Rome and one in Melbourne, Australia. He was annual guest professor of Semitic studies at Leeds University in 1959 and 1963, and worked as chief of the Hebrew section of the Library of Congress from 1944 to 1948.

Theodor Gaster is survived by his wife and one daughter.

APPRECIATIONS

Colonel Sir Martin Gibbs

I EXPECT that many others will agree with me that your obituary of Tim Gibbs (February 11) did not do full justice to his understanding of young people and his pleasure in contemporary arts and crafts.

Tim Gibbs was for many years the patron of The Cirencester Workshops Trust, a seminal centre for contemporary arts and crafts in Cirencester and the forerunner of many similar developments across the country. He attended and obviously enjoyed many Workshops functions and exhibitions and showed a keen appreciation of the work displayed — much more so than might be expected of a "traditionalist". This was of, course, partly because of his own serious hobby as a woodworker, at which he demonstrated considerable skill. As Lord Lieutenant and as patron, he accompanied the Prince of Wales on his visit to the Cirencester Workshops in 1988.

Tim Gibbs also had an enviable ability to get on with people much younger than himself. This may be explained as the influence of two dynamic daughters but the result was that he continued visibly to appreciate everything that life showed him, whatever it was and however unusual it may have seemed to his own contemporaries. If a traditionalist, then definitely open-minded!

Robin Daniapace
YOUR excellent obituary on Colonel "Tim" Gibbs touched on his interest in people. In fact it was his genuine concern for and understanding of the young, from all walks of life, that made him such a remarkable man to us. He never failed to give enormous encouragement, tempered with the occasional word of wise advice; and he was always great fun. His death, at the end of such a long period of service and example to others, leaves a large gap in the lives of all who were lucky enough to know him.

Brigadier Arthur Denaro, Staff College, Camberley.

FEB 14 ON THIS DAY 1922



The object of this London exhibition 70 years ago was to make the daily life of men and women "simpler and happier". By today's standards the offerings were fairly modest; a small electric cooler that could be transformed into a fire and an aluminium saucepan costing 6s 6d that was guaranteed to last 75 years.

DELIVERANCE FROM DRUDGERY.

Labour-saving devices for the home

"Deliverance from Drudgery" is the title of an exhibition opened yesterday, and to continue for a month, at 6, Queen's Square, Bloomsbury. It is one of the enterprises of the Design and Industries Association, which is seeking "to create a simpler and happier world for the average man and woman". The other enterprises include six touring exhibitions, two concerned with textiles, two with printing, one with furniture designs, and one with pottery. That people are, as the association contends, asking more and more for quality and utility in the things of daily use, for colour and cheerfulness in their surroundings, is indicated by the 12-month total of visitors to their exhibitions, which reaches 200,000.

The collection in Queen's Square is the outcome of much thought devoted by many manufacturers to the machinery of common needs. There is no advertisement. One finds on the walls, not the names of firms, but the enunciation of some principles of furnishing and warnings against putting elaboration before usefulness. None the less, the articles have been made by manufacturers in the ordinary business way, and chosen by the association for their special fitness. Being shown, each has been

submitted to a test of its adequacy. Every cup, saucepan, oven, and lamp may, therefore, be said to have earned a certificate by the fact of its presence.

A feature of the vessels is that they are generally, if not always, marked with their capacity. Whether of metal or pottery, they tell what they can hold; and some go into such nice detail on this point that they remind one of a medicine glass. But why should medicine-glasses have a monopoly of such convenience? It will be obvious to cooks, at any rate, that it is good to know when you have poured out a pint, half-a-pint, or what-not.

To others, a dustpan so framed as to prevent its contents from being blown about will commend itself. A little electric cooler, which can be transformed into a fire, seems the very thing for bachelors of both sexes — indeed, for all independent people living in small lodgings. They also may welcome a lamp in which the incandescent system is applied to oil, to the improvement, it is claimed, of the light as well as to the saving of money. A combination device for heating and lighting also suggests economy: a virtue in which no doubt a replica of the oil-oven on the Quax stands. On the other hand, knives and spoons of the long-accepted patterns are shown as examples of what to avoid, with the right sorts near at hand.

It appears that, after some trouble and humbling comparison with other countries, good aluminium ware is now being made in England. Among the exhibits is a saucepan, more handsome than many ornaments. It costs 6s. 6d., but is guaranteed to last 75 years. Though few of us want a saucepan for so long as that, it represents a sound theory of the association, that a good article is cheap in the end, just as there is no reason why a cheap article should not be good. Avoid ostentation and you save labour, and approach beauty, is the guiding plan of the exhibition.

Latest wills

The Rt Hon Simon George Craven, Eighth Earl of Craven, of Eastbourne, East Sussex, left estate valued at £546,341 net.
Professor Roger William Gilliat, of Washington DC, USA, Senior Clinical Neuro-physiologist at the National Institutes for Neurological Disease and Stroke at Bethesda, MD, left estate in the UK valued at £312,161 net.
Lt Col James Russell Kennedy, of Hampshire, London NW3, left estate valued at £1,169,475 net.
Miss Edith Mary Alford, of Sharnbrook, Dorset, left estate valued at £461,074 net.
Other estates include (net before tax paid):
Mr John Charles Northam, of Hagley, Hereford and Worcester, company director, £54,205.
Mr Michael Taylor Harding, of Bournemouth, £725,225.
Major Henry John Wynn, of Bedale, North Yorkshire, £570,664.

Mr Graham Phipps, of Kingswood, Bristol, £735,385.
Mr William Richard Parslow, of Shrewsbury, £828,506.
Mr Darshan Singh Raindi, of Birmingham, £548,546.
Mrs Patricia Mavis Darlington, of Newham, Cambridge, £673,349.
Mr Paul Eric Thurston, of Poole, Dorset, £571,448.
Mr William Ezra Workman, of Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire, £586,566.
Mr William Charles Gurnahill, of Lincoln, £820,273 net.
Mr Ronald Hill, of London, £628,198.
Lilian Margaret Jeff, of Lechlade, Gloucestershire, £508,676.
Mr Henry Ludham, of Coleford, Gloucestershire, £654,171.
Mr David Keith McGowan, of Birmingham, £948,011.
Mr Harry Albert Vernon, of Portsmouth, Hampshire, £510,612.

Tories claim health 'mole' had links with Labour

By Jill Sherman and Michael Horsnell

TORY MPs claimed yesterday that a health official banished from Whitehall for leaking documents had links with the Labour party. Stephen Pashley, an NHS employee seconded to the health department this summer, was suspended yesterday after being accused of leaking a politically sensitive document on NHS trusts to Robin Cook, shadow health secretary.

'Slur' on Lloyd's rejected

Continued from page 1
the many thousands of policyholders who rely upon Lloyd's for their insurance protection.

Mr Coleridge rejected the accusations and claimed that "in two of the last three completed underwriting years of account, external members have enjoyed a higher return than working members".

He said: "If there is any suggestion whatsoever that any misconduct has occurred, it will be investigated under Lloyd's well proven investigative and disciplinary machinery."

Mr Sedgmore and Dennis Skinner, Labour MP for Bolsover, based their Commons motions on a briefing paper prepared for Tory MPs by Lloyd's names for a meeting with Mr Coleridge at the Commons on Tuesday night. It was confirmed yesterday that Mr Sedgmore was approached by Conservative MPs and the paper was then posted to him.

One of the Labour MPs' motions alleged that Mr Coleridge reportedly earned £800,000 plus profits and that he had been accused at the Conservative meeting "of not being on the side of the primacy of the interests of the Names at Lloyd's".

Four cabinet ministers are Lloyd's Names. They are John Wakeham, the energy secretary, Peter Brooke, the Northern Ireland secretary, Ian Lang, the Scottish secretary, and David Hunt, the Welsh secretary.

Mr Cook used the document, which showed that 86 hospitals were in financial difficulties, to launch his health offensive last week.

In the Commons yesterday, James Arbuthnot, Tory MP, claimed that Mr Pashley was recommended by the political assistant of Mr Cook. His evidence was that Gordon Best, one of Mr Cook's political advisers, had been named as Mr Pashley's referee. Last night six Tory MPs, led by Gerry Neal, tabled an early day motion calling for Mr Cook's resignation over the issue.

The health department admitted yesterday that Mr Best's name had appeared as a referee on Mr Pashley's CV, which had been filed at Whitehall. A spokesman insisted that no reference had been needed for Mr Pashley's secondment to the health department this summer. The reference would have applied to his previous job at Hounslow and Spelthorne health authority, northwest Thames, a spokesman said.

Mr Best, a health academic at the King's Fund College, became Mr Cook's political adviser last year. Last night, a Labour spokesman refuted any allegations of links between Mr Pashley and the Labour party. "It is absolute rubbish. Robin Cook has never heard of Mr Pashley."

The spokesman claimed that Mr Cook had received the document in the post. "If a document comes through the post it is the duty of the Opposition to expose the government if the government is saying things that are false." Mr Pashley's expulsion from Whitehall hours after he had been confronted by Christopher France, the permanent secretary at the health department, was unprecedented according to health officials, who said that they had hunted moles for years without ever unearthing one.

It is claimed that Mr Pashley, who worked in the performance management directorate, a section of the NHS management executive responsible for setting trusts, was identified from the copy of the document circulated by Mr Cook at his press conference last week.



In remembrance: the Rev Kenneth Wigston being piped into Glen Coe yesterday to conduct the service

Scots recall an ancient act of treachery

By Alan Hamilton

GLEN COE, the Glen of Weeping, was the scene yesterday of a service marking the 300th anniversary of one of the greatest acts of treachery in Scottish history. On a February day in 1692 members of the Clan Campbell, who had lodged with their Macdonald hosts for 12 days, turned upon them and slaughtered 38 in cold blood. The Campbells had been prevailed upon to act as agents for the Westminster government, to mete out fearful punishment to a rival clan for

its supposed tardiness in swearing allegiance to the new Protestant king, William of Orange.

More than 100 Macdonalds from Scotland and North America gathered in western Scotland for the act of remembrance, and to admire the memorial in Glencoe village, which has been restored with £30,000 of donations raised by the Clan Donald Lands Trust, which administers 20,000 acres of ancestral clan lands on the Isle of Skye. Lord Macdon-

ald, the clan chief who runs a hotel on Skye, laid a wreath in memory of the slain and those who died of exposure in the snow. "In the context of clan history the numbers involved were really minimal. It was the way it was done — the slaughter under trust," he said.

After the ceremony and service the Macdonalds repaired for lunch to the Glencoe Hotel in a mood of true Christian forgiveness, given that the establishment's manager is Lorne Campbell.

Political sketch

MPs parade their family favourites

A mysterious little band of people made their existence known at Westminster, yesterday. Nobody in the press gallery could see them. But the politicians below us seemed sure they knew them well: sure they knew their opinions on the topics of the day, sure, even, they were acquainted with the home circumstances of their lives. MPs knew how our little band were feeling: what were their fondest hopes, their secret fears... Yet here's the mystery. Convinced as each MP was that his assessment of the group was right, no MP's assessment seemed to agree with that of the MP who had spoken before him. Here, in short, was a puzzle: a phenomenon which all claimed to have witnessed, yet of which none gave the same report.

The phenomenon was called "the average family". It made its appearance early in Treasury questions, and never really departed. Tories found it in good heart and prospering. To Labour it was cold, hungry and close to despair.

It seemed from question 7, from Quentin Davies (C, Stamford & Spalding), that the average family had two children: but a curious feature was that they were ageless. Thus, Mr Davies wanted the Chancellor of the Exchequer to tell him what the average family (with their two children) had been paying in income tax in 1979; and what they were now paying. Even (we thought) if their two children had been at primary school in 1979, they would be away at college now! But no. Mr Lawson found them still under the same roof, and losing only 13 per cent of their income in tax, whereas they had been losing 14 per cent in 1979. Mr Lawson thought the average family were rather chuffed about this.

So did Mr Davies. He had heard that the family was delighted with the government's economic policies. They could hardly wait to vote Conservative at the election. One longed to intervene and ask Davies to ask them if they knew when the election would be, as they seemed to know a great deal about politics. It came as a shock, then, when Ron Davies (Leish) rose from the Opposition backbenches claiming to know the family just as well as Mr Davies, and to have

found their experiences and opinions quite other than what Davies had described. According to Brown, the family were thoroughly fed up. They had been hard hit by VAT and then clobbered by poll tax. The last thing they were thinking of doing was voting Tory.

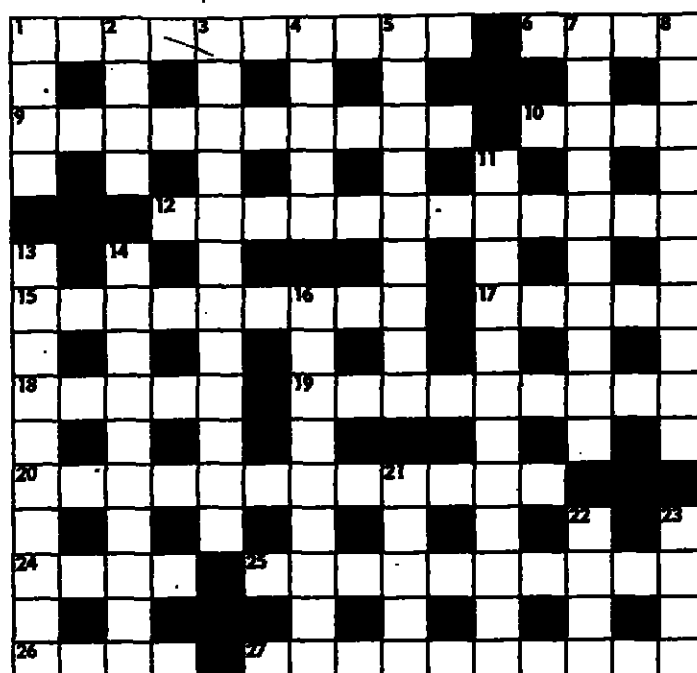
Simon Hughes (Lib Dem, Southwark & Bermondsey) knew the family too. They had a place in Bermondsey. The dearest ambition was to buy a home with incorporated energy-saving features, but they were being deterred from this purchase by stamp duty. Could the Chancellor remove it, for such houses? Francis Maude, a junior minister well acquainted with the family, saw them differently. They would buy the house anyway, because energy saving saved money.

Now David Tredinnick (Bosworth) entered the fray. He too knew the family. They lived in the Midlands. Their income had risen by 35 per cent "clearly demonstrating" to them "the overall success of Conservative policies". But, no sooner had Tredinnick sat down, than the picture was soured by Harry Cohen (Lab, Leyton). Cohen knew two sets of their uncles and aunts: their poor and their rich relations. The rich ones had got richer and the poor poorer. The whole family was riven by despair, envy, and class division. They all blamed the Tories.

Shadow Chancellor John Smith intervened to report that half the family were out of work: whereupon the Chancellor introduced us to their nephew, a single man on less than average earnings, who was nevertheless doing a lot better off than he used to be. No wonder, then, that Maureen Hicks (C, Wolverhampton NE) found the family's morale to be high, damaged only by the worry that Labour might win an election. This haunted them. They might emigrate. Rhodri Morgan (Lab, Cardiff W) thought they had emigrated already — to Italy, where the average family are £2,000 per annum better off. When Mr Morgan next met them, he warned up, he would have to say "excuse the mess, we've got the Conservatives". Or, rather, *Mi dispiace. E ora noi abbiamo i Conservatori*.

MATTHEW PARRIS

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18.841



- ACROSS**
- Not, it may be said, a leg of mutton (10).
 - Stone is a little too pale (4).
 - It sounds as if transparent lie is seen through in church (10).
 - Prayer sure to leave feeling of satisfaction (4).
 - Falsifies marks? Rubbish (12).
 - Amen to sin represented the state of St Paul (9).
 - One of the film crowd - he's super (5).
 - Still slow (5).
 - Deflect from party lines (4-5).
 - For this and 15, 5 is the usual consideration (6,6).

- DOWN**
- Thus the sovereign is below par (4).
 - Garden emptied by autumn in the States? (4).
 - Pendant of model prince to idle (12).
 - Was reluctant to make death-mask (5).
 - You must find domestic help after sister gets married (9).
 - Does this stop drivers being over the limit? (6-4).
 - Their advances attract a great deal of interest (4,6).
 - A meeting of the ways in remote place in Somerset? (6,6).
 - Having nothing to learn, income isn't bad (10).
 - Grave undertakings? (10).
 - Old bird is for ages wrongly identified with osprey (9).
 - University march could be a stunner (5).
 - Temptation is torment! (4).
 - Mind what you pay! (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 18.840

DUCKS BAGATELLE
E R K O S A O G A
C L A R E N D O N M E A L
A S L T E S I O A
M A H L E R T R A N S E O T
E T P A G M
R A T I O N A L L Y B E E P
O A N L E G N L
N A I P G A S W O R T H Y
L G F V V
C L E M A T I S R E A L E
R U N S S R K I
A U D I T A B O U N D I N G
S E U T A O Q H
S C R A P H E A P R E M I T

Concise crossword is on page 11 of Life & Times

WORDWATCH

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which definitions are correct?
By Philip Howard

- ESCUADERO**
a. A Bolivian coin
b. A bull-fighter's assistant
c. A shield-bearer
- SHABASH**
a. A loud exclamation
b. A bachelor party
c. A desert wind headgear
- WILD BASSON**
a. An irate musician
b. The successor of a domestic pet
c. A guest's last straw
- PORLOCKIAN**
a. A disciple of Locke
b. A believer in random chance
c. Intrusive, interrupting

Answers on page 14

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0636 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE	731
C. London (within N & S Circs)	732
M-ways/roads M4-M1	733
M-ways/roads M1-Carlton T	734
M-ways/roads M23-M4	735
M25 London Orbital only	736
National	737
National motorways	738
West Country	739
Wales	740
Midlands	741
East Anglia	742
North-west England	743
North-east England	744
Scotland	745
Northern Ireland	746

AA Roadwatch is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

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Rain over Northern Ireland, Wales and southwest England

will spread steadily eastwards, but only reaching northern Scotland by evening. The rain will be heavy at times, especially over southern England, and may fall as snow over Scottish mountains. Clearer brighter weather will spread into Northern Ireland, Wales, western and central England during the afternoon, reaching southern Scotland and the rest of England during the evening. Outlook: Rain over most areas on Saturday clearing slowly.

MIDDAY: 1-hourly, 6-dry, 12-wet, 18-wet, 24-wet, 30-wet, 36-wet, 42-wet, 48-wet, 54-wet, 60-wet, 66-wet, 72-wet, 78-wet, 84-wet, 90-wet, 96-wet, 102-wet, 108-wet, 114-wet, 120-wet, 126-wet, 132-wet, 138-wet, 144-wet, 150-wet, 156-wet, 162-wet, 168-wet, 174-wet, 180-wet, 186-wet, 192-wet, 198-wet, 204-wet, 210-wet, 216-wet, 222-wet, 228-wet, 234-wet, 240-wet, 246-wet, 252-wet, 258-wet, 264-wet, 270-wet, 276-wet, 282-wet, 288-wet, 294-wet, 300-wet, 306-wet, 312-wet, 318-wet, 324-wet, 330-wet, 336-wet, 342-wet, 348-wet, 354-wet, 360-wet, 366-wet, 372-wet, 378-wet, 384-wet, 390-wet, 396-wet, 402-wet, 408-wet, 414-wet, 420-wet, 426-wet, 432-wet, 438-wet, 444-wet, 450-wet, 456-wet, 462-wet, 468-wet, 474-wet, 480-wet, 486-wet, 492-wet, 498-wet, 504-wet, 510-wet, 516-wet, 522-wet, 528-wet, 534-wet, 540-wet, 546-wet, 552-wet, 558-wet, 564-wet, 570-wet, 576-wet, 582-wet, 588-wet, 594-wet, 600-wet, 606-wet, 612-wet, 618-wet, 624-wet, 630-wet, 636-wet, 642-wet, 648-wet, 654-wet, 660-wet, 666-wet, 672-wet, 678-wet, 684-wet, 690-wet, 696-wet, 702-wet, 708-wet, 714-wet, 720-wet, 726-wet, 732-wet, 738-wet, 744-wet, 750-wet, 756-wet, 762-wet, 768-wet, 774-wet, 780-wet, 786-wet, 792-wet, 798-wet, 804-wet, 810-wet, 816-wet, 822-wet, 828-wet, 834-wet, 840-wet, 846-wet, 852-wet, 858-wet, 864-wet, 870-wet, 876-wet, 882-wet, 888-wet, 894-wet, 900-wet, 906-wet, 912-wet, 918-wet, 924-wet, 930-wet, 936-wet, 942-wet, 948-wet, 954-wet, 960-wet, 966-wet, 972-wet, 978-wet, 984-wet, 990-wet, 996-wet, 1002-wet, 1008-wet, 1014-wet, 1020-wet, 1026-wet, 1032-wet, 1038-wet, 1044-wet, 1050-wet, 1056-wet, 1062-wet, 1068-wet, 1074-wet, 1080-wet, 1086-wet, 1092-wet, 1098-wet, 1104-wet, 1110-wet, 1116-wet, 1122-wet, 1128-wet, 1134-wet, 1140-wet, 1146-wet, 1152-wet, 1158-wet, 1164-wet, 1170-wet, 1176-wet, 1182-wet, 1188-wet, 1194-wet, 1200-wet, 1206-wet, 1212-wet, 1218-wet, 1224-wet, 1230-wet, 1236-wet, 1242-wet, 1248-wet, 1254-wet, 1260-wet, 1266-wet, 1272-wet, 1278-wet, 1284-wet, 1290-wet, 1296-wet, 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4302-wet, 4308-wet, 4314-wet, 4320-wet, 4326-wet, 4332-wet, 4338-wet, 4344-wet, 4350-wet, 4356-wet, 4362-wet, 4368-wet, 4374-wet, 4380-wet, 4386-wet, 4392-wet, 4398-wet, 4404-wet, 4410-wet, 4416-wet, 4422-wet, 4428	
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TODAY IN BUSINESS

WITHERING



Profits at Nomura, the world's largest stockbroker, are descending the emblematic ivy-clad mountain, in the wake of a number of scandals
Page 21

FRUSTRATED

Chris Wright's plans to take Chrysler private have been frustrated by American and Japanese shareholders
Page 19

FIRST FALL



Lord Hanson has reported a fall in profits for the first time in his company's 29-year history
Page 19

TOMORROW

PROFILE



At the age of 12, Alan Sugar, now chairman of Amstrad, was rising at 6 am to boil beetroot for a green grocer

HOPEFUL

In a week when record mortgage repossession figures were published, Weekend Money finds some hopeful signs

THE POUND

US dollar 1.7710 (-0.0160)
German mark 2.8743 (+0.0026)
Exchange index 90.7 (-0.2)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 1957.4 (-5.9)
FT-SE 100 2522.6 (-1.1)
New York Dow Jones 3271.91 (-4.92)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 21391.02 (-150.62)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 10 1/2%
3-month Interbank 10 1/2%
3-month eligible bills 9 3/4%
US: Prime Rate 6 1/2%
Federal Funds 3 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bills 3 3/8%
30-year bonds 10 1/2%

CURRENCIES

London: New York: £ \$1.7714
C: \$1.7735
D: \$1.7725
S: \$1.7745
FF: 16.6371
Y: 166.3575
Yen: 166.3575
Index: 90.7
SDI: 107.1135
ECU: 10.3624
SDI: 128.2947
London forex market close

GOLD

London Fixing: AM \$356.65 pm \$356.30
Close \$356.70-357.20 (201.60-202.10)
New York: Comex \$356.85-357.35

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Mar) \$18.50 bbl (\$18.25)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 135.7 December (1987-100)
* Denotes midday trading price

Carmaker's worldwide loss tops \$2bn

Ford UK and Jaguar lose total of \$1.1bn

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK AND KEVIN EASON IN LONDON

FORD of Britain and Jaguar plunged more than \$1.1 billion into the red last year as the UK car market slumped 21 per cent, the largest single drop in 40 years. Ford of Britain lost \$761 million and Jaguar for which Ford paid \$2.3 billion, lost \$354 million.

Ford's share of the British market — its most important after America — dropped a full point to 24.4 per cent, but it maintained its position as Britain's leading car com-

pany for the 15th year in a row with three of the four best-selling cars — the Fiesta, Escort and Sierra.

The \$1.1 billion UK losses, reported in Britain as £590 million, are a record and accounted for about a third of the \$3.2 billion Ford lost on cars worldwide last year. But America's second-largest carmaker has no plans to cut its 40,000 UK workforce by any more than the 2,100 voluntary redundancies already announced.

Harold Posing, Ford chairman, said: "We believe the

worst is behind us in Britain and we expect a modest economic recovery this year. In addition, we are pleased Jaguar is achieving its strategic priorities — substantially higher quality and lower cost."

Ian McAllister, chairman of Ford of Britain, predicts that the UK market for new cars will revive slightly this year from 1.59 million to around 1.74 million. He admitted though that the company had for too long been building cars "for a market which did not exist".

After announcing job cuts of 2,100 in the company's UK plants this year, Mr McAllister stressed no further measures were planned at the moment and added: "We are making strenuous efforts to improve productivity at both Halewood and Dagenham." He said production in Britain had been reduced over the past two years by 270,000 cars and vans.

Exports leapt to 180,000 vehicles, up from 80,000 the year before, and 1 million engines, worth a total of £2.2 billion, but that was not enough to offset the drop in Ford's domestic market.

Mr McAllister's faith in Jaguar remained unshaken in spite of the figures which show just how quickly and how far the company, based at Coventry, has crashed.

He said: "In the long term Jaguar will prove a significant and wise investment for Ford Motor Company."

For the whole of last year, the Ford parent company plunged from a net \$860 profit to a \$2.3 billion losses on sales down 9.6 per cent at \$88.3 billion. And that was after Ford had added in a record \$927 million profit from its finance division. Unit car sales fell 9.5 per cent to 5.36 million.

On cars alone the company lost \$2.2 billion in America and \$970 million outside America — largely in Europe.

Comment, page 21

BP lifts payout on lower profits

BY MARTIN BARROW

BRITISH Petroleum has increased its annual dividend by 4.7 per cent, leaving payments uncovered after a fall in net income from £1.68 billion to £415 million in 1991.

Bob Horton, the chairman, yesterday announced a dividend for the fourth quarter of 4.2p, unchanged from the three previous quarters. That made a total of 16.8p, up from 16.05p. Annual earnings, however, fell from 31.3p a share to 27.7p.

There had been speculation that BP would reduce dividends in response to a collapse in net income in the final quarter from £457 million to £6 million. Results for the three months to the end of December were described by Mr Horton as "extremely disappointing". They were affected by a reversal of exchange gains made earlier in the year and a write-down of minerals and corporate assets in Canada in preparation for disposal. Recession is affecting all BP's businesses. Investors were warned that

the short-term outlook was poor because of difficult conditions. BP shares, which traded at 357p in April, fell a further 16 1/2p to 267 1/2p.

Rumours of a boardroom split over strategy persist. Mr Horton said he wanted to "knock firmly on the head once and for all" any suggestion that directors were divided on dividend policy or any other substantial issue.

Steve Aherne, finance director, said BP's dividend policy was to offer real growth over a run of years.

Net income for 1991 included stock losses of £620 million, compared with gains of £472 million in 1990. On a replacement-cost basis, which excludes the impact of stock holdings, income fell from £1.2 billion to £1.04 billion for the year and from £456 million to £72 million in the final quarter.

BP Chemicals announced that it was cutting 130 jobs at its Baglan Bay ethylene plant near Port Talbot, Wales.



Bucking the recession: Ian Clubb, finance director of BOC, which announced improved results yesterday

Number out of work rises in every region

BY ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

UNEMPLOYMENT rose in every region of the UK last month as 122,000 people lost their jobs, the biggest January increase since 1986.

After seasonal adjustment, the underlying increase in the number out of work was 53,000. That was 20,000 more than the City had expected. The Department of Employment also revised upwards the December total by more than 5,000, to 36,200.

The sharp rise in the rate of job losses pushed the total without work to 2,673,864, and the unemployment rate to 9.4 per cent. There were renewed City forecasts that the total would pass 3 million before the end of the year.

Jobs were lost in every region, but the South-East, which escaped the worst of the recession in the early Eighties, continued to suffer disproportionately. After seasonal adjustment, 20,700 jobs were lost there. That is 39 per cent of the total, in a region that accounts for 34

per cent of the nation's jobs.

The overall rate of unemployment in the South-East, at 8.3 per cent, remains below the seasonally adjusted national average of 9.2 per cent. The London rate, at 9.4 per cent, is above the average, however.

The rate at which unemployment is rising in the North, Wales and Scotland, which historically have had high unemployment rates, remains below the national average. Even there, however, the picture is gloomy. In December, unemployment in Scotland, seasonally adjusted, increased by just 600.

Last month, the rise was 2,900. Although the North and North-West also continue to suffer disproportionately from unemployment, increases in regions that previously enjoyed low levels of unemployment have narrowed the gap.

Joblessness in Wales and Scotland is now little worse than the national average.

Northern Ireland, where unemployment rose by 900 during January, still has Britain's highest level of joblessness, at 14.3 per cent.

By international measures, on the latest available figures, Britain's unemployment rate is 10.3 per cent. That is 1.1 per cent above the EC average and fourth worst among the countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, after Spain (16.3 per cent), Ireland (15.9 per cent), and Australia (10.5 per cent).

Average earnings declined by 4 per cent to 74 pence in December. Because of delays in implementing agreements, however, the figure probably reflects the level of wage settlements in the middle of last year. Recent data from the Confederation of British Industry suggest that many pay settlements are now no higher than inflation.

Leading article, page 13

Healthy results at BOC

BY JONATHAN PRYNN

A SHARP improvement in the performance of its healthcare division has helped BOC Group buck the recession in its markets and push first-quarter pre-tax profits ahead 13 per cent to £80.1 million for the three months to end-December.

Profits increased 9 per cent if the impact of currency fluctuations is stripped out and earnings per share were up 15 per cent at 10.5p. Turnover rose from £649.9 million to £711.4 million.

Profits from healthcare were up more than a quarter at £23.3 million. This was due largely to a turnaround at the American-based Glasrock Health Care subsidiary, which has returned to profits after rationalisation.

However, an initial rise in the share price was reversed after the market digested gloomy news on the Far East region. The gases division improved profits marginally to £73.4 million on turnover of £508.6 million.

Temps, page 20

Babcock spends £21m to expand

BY GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

BABCOCK International, the heavy engineering and process contracting group, is paying £21.4 million to buy several privately owned materials handling, design and manufacturing companies from the Consilium group based in Sweden, Finland and Germany.

Consilium of Sweden designs and makes ship-loading and unloading systems, while Consilium Bulk encompasses companies specialising in systems for the wood processing, energy, cement, minerals and grain industries. Together they made pre-tax profits of £3.6 million in the year to end-December.

The acquisitions will be integrated with Claudius Peters, Babcock's main German subsidiary, to form a new materials handling division with the aim of penetrating new markets and strengthening

existing market positions. Babcock is raising £33.2 million via a share issue at 50p to finance the deal and provide funds for development. The issue is a placing with an open offer to existing shareholders.

Babcock has forecast an increased 3.15p (3.0p) payout to end-March. The new shares will be entitled to the 1.9p final dividend.

Oliver Whitehead, Babcock's chief executive, said: "Together, Claudius Peters and Consilium CMH and Bulk can apply their combined management and technological skills to provide a much broader range of products to satisfy customers' bulk handling requirements."

Babcock shares reacted favourably to the deal, rising 2.5p to 58p.

Temps, page 20

Ex-Bestwood chief arrested

BY GEORGE SIVELL

TONY Cole, the former chairman of Bestwood, was arrested yesterday by the City of London Police, according to a Serious Fraud Office statement last night.

Mr Cole was charged at Bishopsgate Police Station with offences of theft, procur-

ing the execution of a valuable security, false accounting and perjury. Mr Cole is due to appear at the City of London Magistrates Court today at 10.30am.

The Serious Fraud Office said that the charges follow its investigation with the City of London Police into the affairs of Bestwood. Four people, two directors of Bestwood, an accountant and a stockbroker, have already been charged with criminal offences.

Receivers were called into Bestwood in April 1990. In June 1989, the trade department appointed Gabriel Moss, QC, and John Venn, an accountant, to investigate Bestwood and its Atlanta fund management offshoot under a section of the Companies Act that allows a general investigation into a company's affairs.



Cole: charged

Branson ready to sell Virgin Music

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH

RICHARD Branson, founder of the Virgin Group, is on the verge of selling Virgin Music Group, his record and publishing business, in a move that would be the first divestment from the empire he has built from scratch over the past 20 years.

There are thought to be three interested parties with proposals, said to be worth up to \$1 billion, varying from an outright sale to a joint venture. Goldman Sachs, the American investment bank, has had discussion with a number of parties.

Bertelsmann, the German media giant, is believed to be the frontrunner to buy the group, which has a turnover of \$600 million. Sources at Bertelsmann's New York headquarters confirmed that contacts with Virgin have been made.

Mr Branson said: "We are obviously

delighted that there is so much fuss and attention over whether we plan to lose our virginity or not. However for 20 years we have kept it intact."

Last night, however, the group put out a statement saying: "Over the last 20 years we have built the largest independent music group in the world with offices in over 20 countries and over 200 major artists. As a result we have had numerous approaches to merge or sell VMG. All of these have been rejected. However, very recently we have received a number of more interesting proposals to develop the business which have caught our imagination. Some of these proposals are in the process of being considered and may be the subject of further discussions."

Virgin is believed to be interested in deals that allow the management of VMG to remain with the business. Rumours of losses at Virgin Atlantic, the group's airline, were strongly denied by

the group last week, but City analysts believe Virgin may be keen to raise cash for further development.

Virgin is the largest independent record producer in the industry and as a result is attractive to any of the majors, especially as the group still relies on third parties to manufacture and distribute its products. For a group with its own manufacturing and distribution facilities, the cost savings of merging the businesses could be large. Thorn EMI is interested in buying the business and has recently had a reported \$550 million offer rejected.

Whoever buys VMG will gain a list of some of the best selling and most durable names in the music business. Phil Collins, Bryan Ferry, Steve Winwood, Janet Jackson, UB40 and Genesis are all Virgin artists and last year Mr Branson pulled off a coup by signing the Rolling Stones' next three albums and the backlist from 1971 for £25 million.

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Blow to Bonn's economic optimism

BY WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU

A LEADING German economic forecasting institute has poured cold water over Bonn's optimism on the economy. It says there might be a recession this year, after only marginal growth in 1991.

The Berlin-based Deutsches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung (DIW) said the economy contracted by 0.5 per cent in the fourth quarter last year, and grew by only 0.4 per cent in the whole of 1991.

These data contrast sharply with statistics published by the Bundesbank, according to which the economy grew by 3.2 per cent last year.

According to DIW estimates, the economy started contracting from the third quarter of last year. An economist at the institute said confusion over seasonal adjustment made it difficult to say for certain that the economy had gone into recession on the Anglo-Saxon definition (two consecutive quarters of output).

Year-on-year, however, gross national product was likely to fall in the first quarter of this year.

Gloom among economists contrasts sharply with the optimism expressed by Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who said this week that he expected the west German economy to grow by 2 per cent.

Unilever puts most of its agribusiness up for sale

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH

UNILEVER, the Anglo-Dutch conglomerate that makes Bird's Eye meals, Brooke Bond tea and Persil, is selling the bulk of its agribusiness operations, which have a combined turnover of £500 million and employ 4,000 people worldwide.

The group, from which Sir Michael Angus retires as chairman in May, expects the net effect of the sale to give rise to a £60 million extraordinary charge that will be included in the Unilever 1991 fourth quarter results.

Unilever's total agribusinesses, which range from salmon farms in Scotland to animal feeds in Mexico, had a turnover of £797 million in 1990 and made profits of £30 million.

The group as a whole made overall profits of £2 billion on sales of £22.2 billion.

Michael Haines, the group's spokesman, said negotiations with potential buyers were under way for some of the businesses. Others are being put up for sale.

"There is no rush about this," he said. "We will make further announcements when we have to."

He said the decision follows a review of the businesses in the light of Unilever's overall strategy to focus on its core activities.

The largest Unilever busi-



Pet subject: Sir Michael Angus, who is initiating the sell-off, with Josephine

ness up for sale is BOCM-Silcock group, which comprises BOCM, a manufacturer and marketer of animal feeds employing 1,750 people at 22 mills, and Paul & Vincent, an animal feeds business, based in Edgeworthstown, Ireland which employs 80 people.

The group also owns five oil milling plants and fish feed operations in Renfrew, Strathclyde and Edgeworthstown.

BOCM-Silcock, which has combined sales of £320 million, is one business that is

believed to be in negotiations with a buyer. Unilever is also selling Marine Harvest International, which produces and markets salmon and is based in Edinburgh and Puerto Montt, Chile. Combined sales in 1990 totalled £50 million and the business employs 350. Marine Harvest is believed to be lost making.

Marine Harvest Malaysia, a prawn farming operation producing tiger prawns for local markets, is also on the sale list as are: Malta Clayton, an animal feeds operation based in Mexico; AMI, a

corn hybrids business based in Italy and Barenbrug, a group of ten international companies involved in the multiplication and marketing of grass and forage seeds.

Unilever's holding of a 60 per cent stake in the Netherlands-based Barenbrug grass breeding business has been offered to the minority partner.

The group is keeping Plant Breeding International Cambridge and its plantation, interests.

Unilever shares rose 4p to 922p.

Tourism helps cut French deficit

BY COLIN NARBROUGH

A MARKED improvement in earnings from tourism and a visible trade narrowed the French current account deficit to Fr33.4 billion last year from Fr52.9 billion in 1990, according to Pierre Bérégovoy, the finance minister.

The deficit for 1991 represented a modest 0.5 per cent of the gross domestic product, compared with 0.8 per cent the year before.

Darren Williams, European economist at UBS Phillips & Drew, said the narrower deficit only in part reflected success in holding down unit wage costs. "French industry is still not outperforming its competitors, and its industry has structural problems," he said.

M Bérégovoy predicted that the final budget deficit would be broadly unchanged from the Fr123 billion deficit announced on Wednesday.

December's current account, seasonally adjusted, showed a Fr6.71 billion deficit after a November surplus of Fr1.25 billion. The deficit on visible trade narrowed to Fr5.72 billion from Fr7.55 billion in November.

Spain's January consumer price data showed a 1.5 per cent rise, pushing the annual rise to 5.9 per cent from 5.5 per cent the previous month, still too high for an early cut in interest rates.

BUSINESS ROUND UP

Chief executive resigns at Linread

MIKE Hughes, chief executive of Linread, the Birmingham manufacturer of precision components and fasteners, has resigned from the company. A replacement will be announced next week. Peter Tahany, the group's chairman, said Mr Hughes had departed on amicable terms but had not gone to another full-time post. "He has a couple of non-executive appointments," he said.

Mr Tahany said that Mr Hughes would receive a payment as compensation for loss of office, which would be revealed in the group's report and accounts.

Whitbread to sell

WHITBREAD, the brewing and retailing group, has put a subsidiary that makes gaming and amusement machines up for sale. JPM Holdings has a turnover of £15 million but is only breaking even. The amusement machine industry has been hit hard by the downturn in consumer spending, and Whitbread said JPM is not a strategic fit with its beer, food and leisure businesses. The company is likely to be bought by one of the other machine manufacturers. The business employs 250 people and has a factory in Cardiff.

Triton drops to £2.8m

TRITON Europe, the oil and gas exploration and production group, made pre-tax profits of £2.83 million in the six months to end-November, against £41 million last time. However, last year's figure was boosted by a £34.9 million, exceptional gain from the disposal of interests to Conoco, the American oil company. There is no interim dividend (1p), but the board said it will consider a final dividend for the year to end-May 1992.

Bergesen expects fall

BERGESEN, the Norwegian shipping firm, reported higher profits for 1991 but said it expects profits to fall substantially in 1992, partly due to higher taxes. "A definite improvement in the tanker market contributed to a solid increase in operating profits," it said. Operating profits surged to Kr857 million (£76 million) from Kr515 million. Bergesen said that operating profits would also "probably be lower in 1992".

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But the surface has just been scratched. Laparoscopic surgery is expected to be a \$3 billion market within 5 years. The patient benefits laparoscopic surgery offers will be extended to gynecologic surgery, colon/rectal surgery, thoracic surgery and urologic surgery. As the acknowledged leader, USSC will be at the forefront, creating the devices that make this all possible. The company is looking for additional designers who are creative, dedicated and, frankly, outstanding at what they do.

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For confidential consideration, please send your resume to: Mr. Kevin P. Hallock, Manager Technical Recruiting, United States Surgical Corporation, 150 Glover Avenue, Dept. ST-0216, Norwalk, CT 06856, USA. Or FAX to his attention at: (203) 845-4125.



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Chair in industrial marketing (vacancy number: 920108)

in the Faculty of Management & Organisation.

Groningen is the capital of the north-eastern province of the same name. The 375 year old university covers a full range of disciplines, and has some 19000 students. Internationally it is part of the so-called COMBRA group of similar universities.

The faculty of Management & Organisation currently has 2500 students and a total staff (including non-teaching) of 1300, and is still growing. Taking a management perspective, it is oriented towards a practical and interdisciplinary approach. The vacancy is in the department 'Market and Organization' which has four other chairs: strategic management, financial management, legal aspects and industrial organization.

In principle, the chair covers the full range of marketing, but the focus is on industrial and strategic marketing (with an international orientation) and the links with organization, management of innovation and strategic management. This focus is facilitated by cooperation and a division of labour with the faculty of Economics (Prof. Dr. P.S.H. Leeflang), where the emphasis lies on consumer marketing, operational aspects, market research and marketing models. The cooperation is based on a joint 2nd year required basic course in marketing.

Research in the department covers themes such as innovation and diffusion; decision making under risk/uncertainty; internationalization of markets; user-producer relations in industrial markets; interaction and network knowledge transfer to small business; the strategy process. The staff attached to the chair consists of an associate professor and five assistant professors.

Candidates should:

- have a PhD in economics, business or management
- have skills and ample experience in teaching and preferably also in practice, in marketing in general and industrial and international marketing in particular
- have an ample record of publications in refereed international journals
- be able and motivated to combine a high level of scholarship with a wide interest in issues of management, in the context of interdisciplinary cooperation
- be able to teach in English, and willing to acquire, in due course, at least an adequate passive capability in Dutch (ability to understand and read, but not necessarily to speak or write).

The gross annual salary of a chaired professor ranges between Dfl. 89,000 and Dfl. 127,000. A brief on the vacancy and material on faculty and university can be requested from Ms. Anneke Leguyt, by telephone +31-50-637082, by fax: +31-50-633850, or by mail P.O. Box 800, 9700 AV Groningen. Alternatively, information can be obtained from Prof. Bart Nooteboom, Tel +31-50-633852 (week) or +31-5940-2762 (home). Suggestions for potential candidates are welcome.

Applications are to be submitted to: The University of Groningen, Personnel Department, P.O. Box 72, 9700 AB Groningen, the Netherlands, with reference to vacancy number 920108.

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Takeover to refuel Prestwick Airport

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE loss-making Prestwick Airport in Ayrshire, once a crucial refuelling stop for flights to America, has been taken over by a consortium of Scottish businessmen with local authority backing. The complex three-way deal, understood to be worth

£2 million-£3 million, will safeguard the jobs of more than 2,200 British Aerospace workers who assemble BAe's Jetstream commuter aircraft on an adjacent site.

It will also ensure the survival of BAe's flying school, which trains pilots for airlines such as British Airways and Cathay Pacific from a base at the airport.

Prestwick Airport was offered for sale by BAA, the privatised airport operator. Since restrictions which made Prestwick the only Scottish transatlantic terminal were lifted in 1990, passenger airlines have preferred to use Glasgow or Edinburgh. But there are still about 30 flights a week into Prestwick by transatlantic freight aircraft.

To safeguard its Jetstream operation, BAe has bought the freehold of its assembly plant and the airport runway from BAA.

The runway has been leased on to Acap, which, in a separate deal, has acquired the freehold of the airport buildings.

George Younger, the former Scottish secretary in whose constituency the airport lies, is chairman of Acap. He said: "Prestwick International, as it will now be known, has the backing to regain its position as a major transatlantic and pan-European hub."

Mr Younger said commitments by Air Canada and Federal Express, allied to feasibility studies, gave him confidence that "we will turn round the airport's fortunes in the short term while building towards its long-term success."

Kyle and Carrick district council has invested £1.5 million in return for a 19 per cent stake. Strathclyde regional council has pledged to provide a £1 million loan, secured against assets.

A spokesman for Acap said the workforce would be reduced from 80 to 55. Former BAA staff would be given priority if they applied for jobs.

Prestwick has lost money in each of the past four years. In the year to March 31, 1990, the airport came close to breaking even, but last year provisions pushed total losses to £5.4 million.

If it is successful, Prestwick International will compete head to head with BAA airports that are closer to Scotland's main population centres.

BAA is investing £60 million in eight new piers for wide-bodied aircraft at Glasgow, for completion by 1996.

Prestwick Airport was opened in 1935. Like Shannon airport, in Ireland, it soon became a crucial refuelling stop for transatlantic flights, but the development of the Boeing 707 destroyed the need for refuelling stops between London and North America.

Holmes Protection plans issue

Holmes Protection, the American security group, is attempting to raise about £20 million via a share issue to ensure its survival. The company, under new management after a boardroom coup in September, is meeting institutional shareholders hoping to secure approval for its proposals.

Holmes, which bills itself as America's sixth largest electronic security and monitoring business, yesterday announced losses of \$35.7 million before tax last year, compared with profits of \$5.04 million in 1990. There was a loss of 52 cents a share (7 cents earnings). Again there is no dividend. The London-listed shares were unchanged at 5p.

Losses were struck after exceptional costs of \$30.7 million, including provisions of \$21 million against subscriber contracts and \$3.59 million against fixed assets.

TNT to sell US stake

TNT, the Australian international transport group, plans to raise Aus\$400 million (£170 million) by selling shares in TNT Freightways, its American road haulage subsidiary, which will be listed in America on the Nasdaq system. After the sale of about 12.5 million shares at \$19.5 each, TNT's main American subsidiary will continue to own between 20 and 25 per cent of TNT Freightways.

The sale, most of which will be made in America by Goldman Sachs, is part of TNT's debt reduction programme.

Trust down

The net asset value at Trust of Property Shares, the investment trust holding property shares, was 78.43p per share at the end of last year (79.75p). Pre-tax revenue slipped from £136,840 to £127,020 in the year to end-December. Earnings per share dip from 1.550p to 1.443p. A single final dividend of 1.432p (1.364p) per share is proposed.

Heath expands

CE Heath, the insurance broking group, has recruited three leading American brokers to form Heath Insurance Brokers Inc, a new subsidiary, in Dallas. The company will specialise in wholesale surplus lines business.

IBM first

IBM has announced plans for a new family of supercomputers — its first to use a parallel design. Initial delivery of the first entry level machine will be announced later this year.

Disney staff

Euro Disney SCA, seeking to allay fears that it faces a labour shortage when Euro Disneyland opens on April 12, told shareholders yesterday that it had hired nearly all the staff it needed.



Ready to bid: Chris Wright would have offered shareholders a 40 per cent premium on the current price

Chrysalis buyback aborted

By MARTIN WALLER

CHRIS Wright's plans to take private Chrysalis Group, the music publishing and media services business he founded, have been frustrated by opposition from a block of the shares apparently held by American and Japanese investors.

Mr Wright, who has 47 per cent of the group, said in November he was considering making an offer for the outstanding shares at around the market price of 9p.

Chrysalis said yesterday that Mr Wright had reluctantly concluded that while he would be ready to make the offer, it would not have secured the necessary shareholder support. Talks between the company and Mr Wright had therefore ended.

Mr Wright would not say which shareholder had balked at the buyout plan — which would have given shareholders a premium of 40 per cent on the current share price of 72p. It is also known that the idea had been received favourably by City institutions.

A 10.5 per cent shareholding is split, however, between Warner Brothers, the American entertainment combine owned by Sony of Japan, and MCA Universal, which is owned by Matsushita. It is believed the opposition came from one of these.

Chrysalis shares fell 9p before recovering to their overnight level of 72p. Mr Wright commented: "There are probably shareholders who are upset, having thought that they had an exit route at this price. They are not as upset as I am."

Harland Simon share price halves after profit warning

By OUR CITY STAFF

SHARES in Harland Simon fell by more than half, wiping £58 million off the market value of the company, after the process control group gave warning that it expected a "significant fall" in pre-tax profits for the year to March 31.

Harland, the shares of which fell from 585p to 253p, said expected contracts with the late Robert Maxwell's Mirror Group and Maxwell Communication Corporation had not materialised, while £750,000 of debts from the collapsed Maxwell empire had also been written off. This has resulted in about £2.75 million being wiped off current profits.

In addition, Harland blamed the recession in Britain and America for the fact that several expected contracts were not placed. Delays resulting from "technical difficulties" at Perfect Information, a private company that offers an on-line library service and is a Harland customer, hit sales severely. That led to a £3 million profits shortfall.

Roy Ashman, chief executive, said most of the group's established companies were trading profitably, albeit at lower than expected levels. Exceptions were NEF, a Swedish subsidiary affected by a depressed paper industry and Swedish economy, and Pro Aqua, an electronic systems maker.

Mr Ashman estimated that profits would be about £8.5 million below previous forecasts. However, he said the board intended to recommend an unchanged final dividend of 5.5p. The group

was making efforts to reduce dependence on large contracts. Ingred von Hentschel, at Beeson Gregory, has slashed her pre-tax profits forecast for 1992 from £13 million to £4 million, with earnings predicted at 16p per share.

□ Hungary's government has gained control of *Esti Hirlap*, a daily newspaper, by buying the 40 per cent stake that was owned by Robert Maxwell. The purchase puts 80 per cent of the state-owned Newspaper Publishing Company. No price was disclosed.

The remaining 20 per cent of *Esti Hirlap*, which has a circulation of 60,000, is owned by the paper's employees. The deal is considered part of efforts by the centre-right

Profits at Hanson fall for the first time in its history

By MATTHEW BOND

HANSON, the industrial conglomerate run by Lord Hanson and Lord White, has reported its first drop in profits in its 29 year history. In the three months to end-December pre-tax profits fell 6 per cent to £226 million.

Despite the drop, the company hung on to its record of uninterrupted growth in earnings by reporting unchanged earnings per share of 3.9p. But the shares shed 2p to 197.4p as analysts took the view that the announcement that Hanson would pay dividends quarterly from now on had provided a one-off boost to earnings per share, by reducing its tax charge.

The change in dividend policy begins in July when Hanson will pay a first quarterly dividend of not less than 2.75p, rather than an interim dividend which last year was 3.15p. The final size of the first quarterly payment will be announced together with the group's interim profits in May. After the July payment, one more quarterly dividend will be declared before Hanson's September year end.

With Hanson stating that all future quarterly dividends will be at least 2.75p, the total pay-out in a full year should be at least 11p, matching last year's distribution. Bob Carpenter, of Kleinwort Benson Securities, believes the switch will be popular with Americans who are used to quarterly payments. But he is less convinced about its popularity in Britain. "At a time when a lot of companies are cutting their dividends, the one thing a lot of investors won't want is for the pattern of Hanson's dividends to be disrupted."

Mr Carpenter believes the dividend switch could enable the company to report a 29th year of earnings growth when the full-year results are unveiled. While he is currently forecasting a drop in full-year profits to £1.2 billion (£1.3 billion), he says a 29th consecutive increase in profits is also not impossible. "With the sort of deals that Hanson does, the door is still open for the company to report higher profits as well."

Lord Hanson said the results were in line with expectations but warned that there

was as yet little sign of any recovery. "The quarter saw a continuation of recessionary conditions both in the UK and the USA which have affected both economies longer than anticipated."

But he was confident for the future: "With our strong balance sheet, excellent cash flow and first class portfolio of well-managed businesses, we shall benefit from forthcoming opportunities."

The quarterly figures include a one month contribution from Beazer, the building products group acquired last year, and a full contribution from Cavenham Forest Products, which Hanson swapped for its 49 per cent interest in Newmont Mining in December 1990.

Builder goes £59m into red

By MARTIN WALLER

CONCITONS in house-building in the South-East have sent Crest Nicholson, the builder with extensive property interests, into a £59.4 million pre-tax loss (£8.1 million profit) in the year to end-October.

The company is paying only a nominal 0.01p dividend for the year to preserve share status under the Trustee Investments Act. Last time a total of 7.65p was paid.

The group was forced to increase provisions to £39.8 million against the plummeting value of land and other assets. But John Calcutt, chief executive, said available bank facilities of £167 million after the renegotiation of banking facilities were more than adequate to meet foreseeable requirements. "These are obviously disappointing results, but we have now grasped the nettle and created a base for recovery," he said.

Interest payments almost doubled to £12.6 million, but borrowings were more than halved by the year end to £54.7 million.

Tempus, page 20

Greek arena for new world order

By PHILIP PANGALOS

THE Greek government will play host to leading political and economic figures from 42 countries at an international conference in Athens entitled "Europe and the Mediterranean in the New World Order".

Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN Secretary-General, will be among representatives of several international organisations at the April gathering. Invitations have also been sent to Israel and a Palestinian representative.

Virginia Tsouderou, Greece's foreign ministry under secretary, said: "The Athens conference will provide an open forum for debate and frank dialogue on the new challenges that have emerged a year after the Gulf war and the radical changes in central and eastern Europe."

The conference is being organised by the Swiss privately-run Forum Foundation and is sponsored by the Greek foreign ministry. Greece is attempting to

carve out a new international identity, highlighting its economic, political and environmental role in Europe, the Mediterranean and the Black Sea.

The aim of the meeting is to promote economic and political contacts and dialogue between the countries and the businessmen of Europe and the Mediterranean basin in the light of international changes.

Private ownership, page 21

C&G rises 27% despite bad debt

By LINDSAY COOK
MONEY EDITOR

THE Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society increased its profits by 27 per cent last year to £183.8 million, despite a fivefold increase in its bad debt provisions.

Over half of the closing provisions of £108.4 million came as a result of last year's merger between the Cheltenham, Britain's sixth largest society, and the £760 million Portsmouth. The C&G had expected to inherit £35 million to £40 million from the deal after accounting for bad debts but instead received £1 million.

In addition, it got an administrative building at



Longhurst: open mind

the C&G's reserves increase to just 24.5 per cent.

The C&G also rescued the Peckham and Walthamstow building societies. Andrew Longhurst, chief executive of the C&G, said he did not want to be involved in any other rescue mergers. Before any other mergers took place the C&G would examine the books of the other society far more closely.

In the Portsmouth case, several mortgage frauds came to light after the merger. Mr Longhurst added, however, that he did not regret the Portsmouth merger as the C&G now had a profitable business: at no cost to itself. Group assets increased by 27.8 per cent to £14.8 billion and lending in-

creased 22 per cent to £3.6 billion.

He said: "C&G's performance last year demonstrates resilience in a very difficult market. The strength of our business overall has been highlighted by our ability to absorb the mortgage books of weaker societies without draining C&G's resources."

The expense/asset ratio of the society rose slightly to 68p per £100 but still remains about half the average of the top ten societies. Mr Longhurst said that he was "open-minded" about the society's mutual status. He was happy for it to remain mutual if the restrictions on wholesale funding did not hurt the business.

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GRIFFIN

BP uncovered but unbowed

The decision by BP to pay an increased dividend uncovered by earnings will warm the hearts of chairmen of other companies who find themselves in a similar predicament as the annual results season approaches.

The 4.7 per cent increase to 16.8p a share is a modest one by BP's recent standards. But it was sanctioned against a background of extremely difficult trading conditions in most sectors where BP operates and the company could easily have made a solid case in favour of a maintained or reduced payment.

Instead Bob Horton, the chairman, cites a strong cash flow and the long-term nature of the oil industry. He remains convinced that oil prices will rise in real terms this decade and that chemicals will resume making sensible returns as the economy recovers. But it is also true that BP suffered a net cash outflow of £1.1 billion last year and that trading deteriorated in the final quarter and continued to look uncertain in the opening weeks of 1992. Debt has now reached "a prudent limit."

Mr Horton, however, takes a longer-term view and is sending a clear message to reassure BP's institutional investors. His confidence failed to steady an uncertain market in BP shares, which slipped a further 16p to 267p. But fund managers who have relied on a steady income stream from stalwarts such as BP will rest easier as they prepare for more bad news from UK plc.

There will be some comfort for BP today in a small but select survey covering a dozen fund managers responsible for £250 million of investments. They felt in general that a company's share price would benefit from a maintained dividend in difficult times, provided that they were persuaded that the company had not damaged itself and endangered future growth. The fund managers would, it is clear, have little sympathy for misjudgments which held payments one year and led to a belated cut the next.

The survey, from Warwick Corporate, gives a chillingly clear warning to directors who err on the side of generosity. As one of the managers said, investors will be taking a negative view of a company which over-distributes when it is obvious that the profitability of a company has changed substantially and it calls for fresh capital to finance an unsustainable payout ratio.

More surpluses

As another tsunami of a scandal sweeps over Japan, outsiders can only wonder what it would need to destabilise Japan. The emerging scandal, which links a delivery company, politicians and mobsters, is said to be even a greater threat to the ruling liberal democrats than the shares-for-favours Recruit affair of the Eighties.

Fearful for their future, the liberal democrats have made clear their desire to reverse economic slowdown in Japan with a cut in the discount rate. However, the party acknowledges that Yasushi Mieno, governor of the Bank of Japan, is firmly against premature easing.

Meanwhile Japan's external surpluses continue to astound. Yesterday's trade figures for January showed the 13th successive month of rising surpluses. Last month's surplus was \$3.84 billion, more than 300 per cent above January 1991.

Fortunately for ties with Washington, the bilateral surplus with America was only \$50 million up on last year. Cheaper oil and slower growth reduced Japan's overall import bill by 3.8 per cent. And, despite the gloomy British outlook, Japanese exports jumped nearly 10 per cent.

Born-again Nomura puts customers before profit

Joanna Pitman reports from Tokyo on the change of style at Japan's largest broker six months after its public humiliation

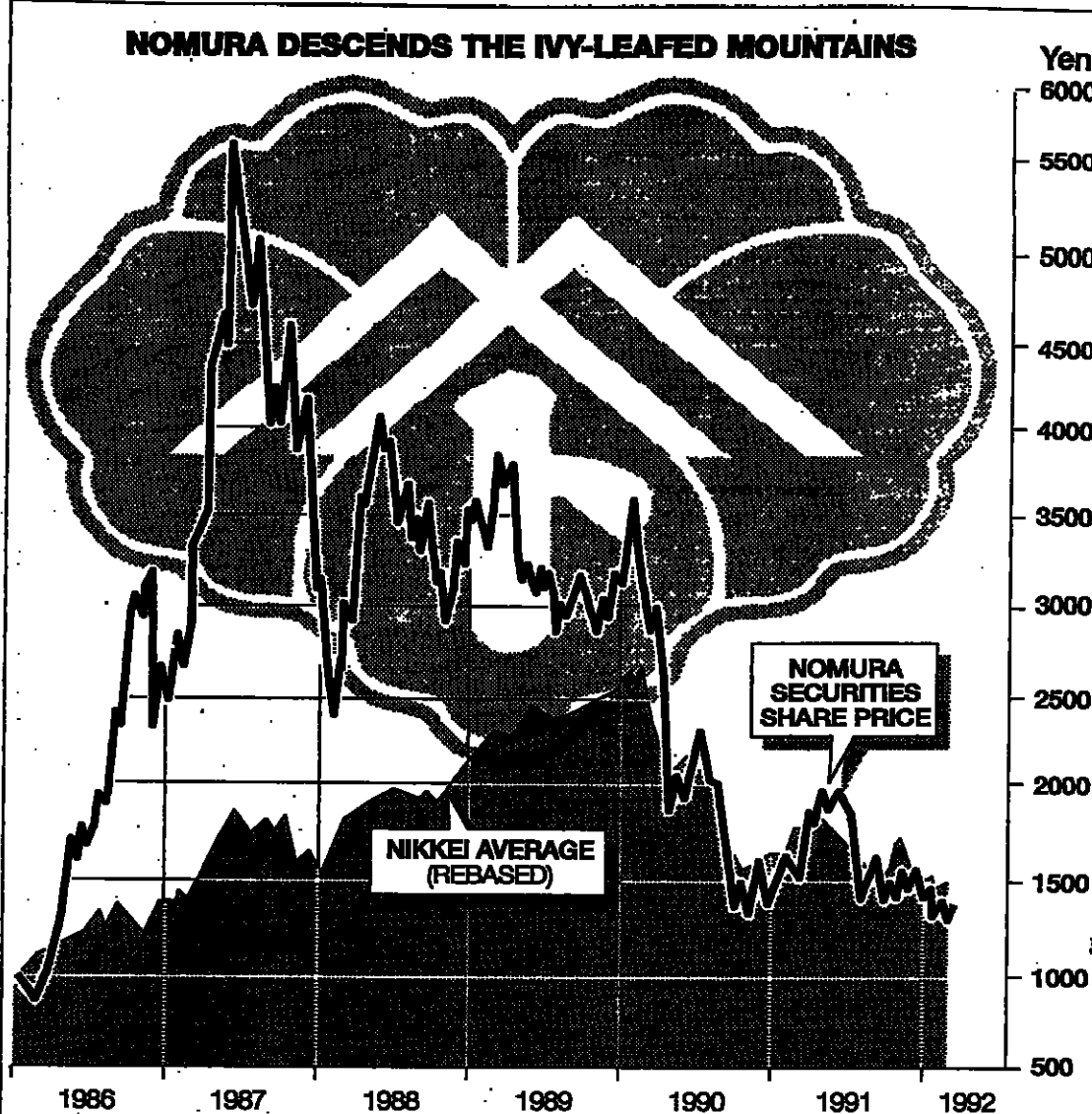
Just over six months has past since the public humiliation of Nomura Securities and the resignations of its chairman and president. The scandals involved links with gangsters, allegations of stock price manipulation and the payment of secret compensation to favoured institutional clients. They also resulted in Nomura filling full-page newspaper advertisements with protestations of remorse and promises to brush up its ethics, to reappear as the "born-again Nomura" and to win back the confidence of individual investors.

Today, Nomura is still trying to convince Japanese investors and regulators that it is changing its business style. "Nomura has abolished its old arrogant attitude which led it to believe it could do anything just because it was the most efficient sales machine," Shigeo Morinobu, of the securities division of the finance ministry, said. One of his colleagues added, however: "It may have changed its behaviour, but Nomura is still a very powerful machine. It will not repeat the same faults as before, but it could devise new and more sophisticated ways of getting around regulations."

However credible or otherwise Nomura's stated intentions may sound, the current dark economic climate is forcing it to keep a low profile. Business has been hammered not only by the indignities of highly publicised scandals but also by the collapse of the Nikkei stock average from almost 40,000 at the end of 1989 to about 22,000 today. Stock market turnover has fallen 90 per cent in the same period. Nomura's descent from the ivy-leaved mountain (the firm's emblem) has been even more dramatic (see accompanying graph).

In the bumper year of 1987, during the heyday of the bubble economy when stock and property prices were rising daily to historic highs, Nomura made profits of 500 billion yen (£2.2 billion), the highest earnings of any Japanese company. But for 1991 profits are expected to shrink to barely one tenth of this. Tomoko Aikawa, of Nomura, said: "We have been badly hit, but now we are changing our style and our culture. Nomura's long term future depends on our ability to bring back the lost confidence of the individual investor."

Nomura executives are keen to rid the company of its reputation as the bulldozer of the securities industry. During the easy money days of the bull market, Nomura used to be able to place stocks and push the Nikkei index up and down, more or less at will. The head office would pass out instructions on which shares to promote to its army of 5,000 salesmen and women, who would spread out



across Japan and push them on to their hapless clients.

If yesterday's unspoken war cry was "profits first", today it is loudly proclaimed to be "customers first". The sales executives, who used to be judged and paid on their ability to move shares, are now being evaluated on the performance of their customers' portfolios. Local branches are being given autonomy from head office, and encouraged to sell on fundamental analysis rather than the "stock theme of the week" orders that emanated from head office. "With our whole culture and values changing, there is a considerable amount of confusion among salesmen. We have introduced new training methods and all middle management is receiving compliance training for the first time, so they know right behaviour from wrong," Miss Aikawa said.

Some financial analysts in Tokyo argue that Nomura and other financial firms have sworn to reform their dubious ways many times before, without really ever doing so. "This public contrition is all very well in the current bear market because everyone is treading carefully. But as soon as a bull market comes along again, we cannot be sure that Nomura will not revert to its old ways," a foreign financial analyst said.

A return to business as usual

would be most undesirable, as the integration between Tokyo and the world's other leading financial markets is too important to permit large inconsistencies in regulatory standards and corporate behaviour.

The embarrassment of internationally scrutinised scandals should have increased the will of the authorities to demand stricter internal discipline. Whether it has or not remains to be seen, but fortunately for Japan's individual investors and for the rest of the world's financial centres, Tokyo's stock market collapse is proving to be a strong medicine for Nomura and the other errant securities companies involved in last summer's scandals.

The ignominy of the scandals and the change in Tokyo's financial climate are forcing Nomura to reorganise its business strategies at just the right time as wholesale market regulation, promised for years, is apparently round the corner. The finance ministry's Mr Morinobu said: "In the near future Nomura will have to cope with liberalised commission fees. This will be tough for all brokers, particularly small ones but Nomura is definitely strong enough to adjust and revive. In the short term at least, it is going to place more emphasis on retail busi-

ness because the fees for small investors will remain fixed."

Few doubt that Nomura will pull through. The chastening events of last summer appear to be pushing the company, still the market leader, towards a more benevolent, strategically more rational business style. Its competitors should be more concerned than ever.

Few expect Japan ever to see another bull market to match that of the late Eighties and many investors are forecasting a sluggish market until the middle of the year. Nomura seems remarkably untroubled.

At the root of its confidence in its competitive advantage lies its enormous distribution capability and its formidable financial resources. In the year to March 31 1991, it made a net profit of ¥142 billion just from interest and dividends from its own securities and cash holdings. In the six months to September 1991, when the scandals were at their height, Nomura still made profits of ¥22 billion, 64 per cent down from the same period in 1990 but still almost twice as much as the second-ranked Daiwa Securities. As Mr Morinobu put it: "Nomura is still very powerful. It has very high quality personnel... and huge financial assets. It may appear to be in a period of transition now, but Nomura will never fail to revive itself."

Greece presses on to private ownership

Andreas Andrianopoulos, Greece's industry and trade minister, has reaffirmed his country's commitment to liberalise the market and make progress with its delayed but ambitious privatisation programme.

The plan, on which the government has been advised by NM Rothschild, envisages the state retaining a majority holding in utilities. About 67 per cent of economic activity in Greece, involving more than 50 per cent of the workforce, is under the direct or indirect control of the state.

Among the proposals is the privatisation of about 330 firms, with "visible results" predicted by August. Included in those marked for sale to the private sector, are the Hellenic Telecommunications Organisation (OTE), the Public Power Corporation and Olympic Airways, Greece's national airline. The proceeds will add desperately needed revenues to the state budget.

Sale of a minority stake in OTE is likely to be along British lines, with more than one tranche on offer. Mr Andrianopoulos suggests a trade sale is possible, but experts feel that an offer for sale is more likely and would be politically more acceptable. A block of about 20 per cent could be offered initially, making it easier for the capital markets to swallow.

There has been much speculation that Olympic Airways would enter negotiations with Lufthansa or JAL, the Japanese carrier, but its future is unclear. As with some other privatisations, the aim will be to reduce deficit subsidies as well as raising cash.

The privatisation programme is seen in some quarters as too ambitious, and is unlikely to make the progress hoped for as the Greek government attempts to follow the British "popular capitalism" path. There are doubts over legal ownership, particularly involving some of the indebted companies that were taken over by state banks.

However, with a number of international floats in the pipeline, British investors could find the Greek sales interesting. Evrictos Sarsenis, European analyst at Schroder Securities, said: "There are certainly opportunities to be had."

Greece's New Democracy government, headed by Constantine Mitsotakis, the prime minister, is determined to achieve single-digit inflation in 1993 as part of the country's stabilisation programme.

Greece hopes to reduce the public sector borrowing requirement to 3 per cent of GDP by 1996 from the present 14.5 per cent — having already come down since 1990.

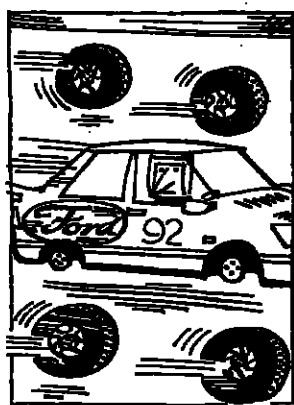
Inflation, down from 22.8 per cent in 1990 to around 18 per cent, is the highest in the EC. The current target is to reduce it to 12 per cent by the end of 1992, but it will have to be below 10 per cent before the government can achieve its aim of bringing the drachma into the ERM.

PHILIP PANGALOS

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Apt choice of mnemonic

THREE stock lending experts — with 100 years experience between them — are coming back from retirement to launch the first independent stock lending consultancy. Peter Wills, aged 60, a longtime partner of Shephards & Chase, is joining forces with Rex Baldwin, 54, ex-BZW, and Ian Capel, 53, ex-James Capel, to form BCW Stock Lending Consultants. "We have an office in the City but we will be doing a lot of work from home," says Wills, deputy chairman of the stock exchange from 1979-82 and then chairman of the membership committee of the TSA. "We will be catering for institutions, intermediaries or borrowers. A lot of them are still very ignorant and a bit nervous about the process and we will offer independent advice. Everyone we have talked to seems to think that it is a very good idea." Stock lending, for the uninitiated, is a method by which institutions lend stock to brokers, in return for a fee ranging from 1 per cent for gilts to 1 1/2 per cent for overseas stock. "If you have stock in a vault somewhere and you are just holding on to it, why not make more money by lending it," Wills says. One of the institutions sounded out by BCW was the Bank of England. In a post script to his approving reply, Ian Plenderleith, associate director of the Bank, wrote: "I'm glad you take your mnemonic from your surnames and not your christian names — Rex, Ian and Peter."



Sight-seeing Seelig

ROGER Seelig, looking fit and relaxed now that the ordeal of the Guinness trial is behind him, was spotted lunching at Sir Terence Conran's fashionable new restaurant, Le Pont de la Tour, at Butlers Wharf, London, yesterday. During the meal, he was patted warmly on the back by Conran. The two have long been friends, with Seelig advising Conran over Storehouse and Conran publicly declaring his sympathy for Seelig at the outset of the trial and then, together with Paul Hamlyn, the publisher, standing bail. After lunch, Seelig, who often patronises Conran establishments, took his female companion on a leisurely sight-seeing tour of Tower Bridge and the Thames.

Instinctive timing

AT LEAST one main board director of Harland Simon, the engineering group, seems to have impeccable financial instincts. The company yesterday issued a profits warn-

ing, causing its shares to more than halve within a matter of hours from 585p to 253p. As they tumbled, they triggered a bell within the company of Directors, the Edinburgh research company that charts share dealings by directors. Directors had recorded a series of transactions in October, when David Mahony, Harland's deputy chairman, sold 55,000 shares — more than a quarter of his total holding — at prices ranging from 670p to 700p. "It was clearly a very wise move," Colin Rogers, of Directors, says. If he had waited until this morning to sell them he would have been £233,000 worse off.

BT jizzes up

BRITISH Telecom's sponsorship of jazz saxophonist John Harle — to the tune of £50,000 for a seven city tour and a travelling master class, as part of its Arts in the Community programme — will be music to the ears of Mike Bett, BT's deputy chairman. Bett, a jazz enthusiast who discovered Harle and his band when the company sponsored John Dankworth and Cleo Laine's Wavendon all-music festival, describes his musical tastes as "very catholic, particularly trad, late Fifties and early Sixties." Bett's musical career, which began when he played the trumpet and drums in his school band, was cut short by his family's cramped domestic circumstances. "We lived in a small flat and my mother said I had to stop it when the neighbours complained about the noise," he says.

CAROL LEONARD

Outhwaite settlement is unfair

From Mr M.J. Langton

Sir, I was not, happily, a member of the Outhwaite syndicate but I find the out of court settlement disturbing because, according to your report, the names who remained loyal to their underwriting agents and to Lloyd's will receive no benefit from the settlement and indeed many of them may have to contribute to the settlement as members of the syndicates who wrote the Outhwaite professional indemnity policy. There has always been a firm and stated principle in Lloyd's that there is complete equity between members of a syndicate, who have to pay their losses and expenses strictly according to their agreed share of the stamp. This settlement appears to make a mockery of this principle and when the full horror of the 1989 and 1990 accounts becomes apparent, I fear that many loyal names

may be tempted not to pay their claims until they are sure that they are not going to be put into a disadvantageous position by those wishing to take legal action.

The Council should have used this opportunity to have its legal responsibility to names and that of the underwriting agents properly tested in the courts.

They now have a clear responsibility to ensure that there is equity between the Outhwaite names.

Otherwise the syndicate system will be reduced to a shambles and the only beneficiaries will be the lawyers and accountants whose rich pickings will be won at the expense of the long-suffering names.

Yours faithfully,
M.J. LANGTON.
Wildwood,
Harpsden,
Henley-on-Thames,
Oxfordshire.

In praise of Scots

From Mr Philip Smith

Sir, To Mr Roy Jenkins, I say: thank you for bringing me to my senses.

Having listened to some of the Scots grumbling for the last few years, I had begun to wish they would push off and do their own thing.

I wouldn't really; they are such a wonderful lot and they uphold, better than most, the British Way, which is still so universally respected and envied.

If they did go, we'd probably lose the Queen Mother!

Thanks RJ — write some more!

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP SMITH.
Director,
Anderson & Brown
Property Services,
5 Artillery Lane, E1.

Change of names

From the Director General of the British Institute of Management

Sir, Roy Jenkins is misleading readers when he says that the British Institute of Management (BIM) is proposing to drop the word British from its name.

In fact, BIM is proposing to merge with the Institution of Industrial Managers and, if agreed, in November a new Institute of Management will emerge butterfly-like from the chrysalis of both institutes.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER YOUNG,
Director General,
British Institute of Management,
3rd Floor,
2 Savoy Court,
Strand,
WC2.

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7	British Airways	Transport	
8	Ward Hodge	Building	
9	British Airways	Transport	
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Two readers shared yesterday's £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize. Mrs. Clare Hill, of Solihull, West Midlands, and Mr. Robert McCaughan, of Maidstone, Kent, each receive £1,000.

1991/92 High Low Company Price + - % YTD % P/E

1991/92	High	Low	Company	Price	+ -	% YTD	% P/E
211	211	211	Alloy	211	0	0	0
212	212	212	Alloy	212	0	0	0
213	213	213	Alloy	213	0	0	0
214	214	214	Alloy	214	0	0	0
215	215	215	Alloy	215	0	0	0
216	216	216	Alloy	216	0	0	0
217	217	217	Alloy	217	0	0	0
218	218	218	Alloy	218	0	0	0
219	219	219	Alloy	219	0	0	0
220	220	220	Alloy	220	0	0	0
221	221	221	Alloy	221	0	0	0
222	222	222	Alloy	222	0	0	0
223	223	223	Alloy	223	0	0	0
224	224	224	Alloy	224	0	0	0
225	225	225	Alloy	225	0	0	0
226	226	226	Alloy	226	0	0	0
227	227	227	Alloy	227	0	0	0
228	228	228	Alloy	228	0	0	0
229	229	229	Alloy	229	0	0	0
230	230	230	Alloy	230	0	0	0
231	231	231	Alloy	231	0	0	0
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1991/92 High Low Company Price + - % YTD % P/E

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP							
11	211	Abby Nl	289	...	9.3	4.4	9.4
15	126	Allied Irish	175	...	...	5.3	12.8
50	...	23	Asiabach (S)	32	...	1.3	6.3
...	119	Aut New Z	171	...	...	4.8	14.2
...	11218	Banqueirone	2237	+62	...	...	...
73	115	Bk of Ireland	155	+2	...	6.8	25.4

More raids by software police

Companies are using court orders to stop illegal copying, writes Matthew May

When seven American software companies used their combined muscle to raid the offices of the Mirror Group and Greenwich borough council at the end of last year, they showed their increased determination to prevent organisations copying programs without paying for them.

The software companies, including such giants as Microsoft and Lotus Development, have banded together to form a group known as the Business Software Alliance.

By obtaining powerful Anton Piller court orders, which allow people to enter premises to seek evidence of civil wrongdoing, the alliance's representatives can turn up unannounced and demand to examine a company's personal computers to see whether any of its software has been illegally copied. Refusal would put the company in contempt of court.

The Mirror Group was raided by 28 representatives of the alliance. At the end of last month both the Mirror Group and Greenwich council settled out of court and agreed to pay the alliance sums that were not disclosed, although the Mirror Group is known to have paid more than £100,000.

The publicity from such raids, though muted in the Mirror Group's case because of more pressing problems, is clearly intended to strike terror into other companies that may be using pirated software. Peter Davies, the alliance's vice-president, says that at least half a dozen more raids are planned for this year.

"If you have an office that needs five computers, you do not buy one and steal the other four," Mr Davies says. "Software must be seen in the same light."

Some companies are confused about what is legal as software developers have different rules about how their products can be used. Copying one package may be piracy, while copying another may not.

Alistair Kelman, a barrister specialising in computer law, says: "There is still uncertainty and a lack of standards about what people are allowed to do with certain software packages. Some



Every one a fake: counterfeit manuals flank Bob Hay, an industry "policeman", who wants to stamp out illegal copying of software

may let you take a copy and use it at home or on a portable computer for use when you are out of the office, while others may not.

"If software companies are going to use this approach, then they need to come up with a common set of guidelines on what is fair use, as many people now feel they are at risk."

The use of Anton Piller orders is really acceptable only in cases where it is believed that the organisation concerned will not obey an order from the courts to give the correct information. I cannot believe that was true in all the cases in which it has been used.

The decision to get tougher about piracy in Britain has been possible since the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act came into effect in 1989 and made it clear that copying programs is illegal.

Thanks to the act, the powers available in Britain to prosecute those who copy software are among the strongest in Europe. Mr Davies, who is also Micro-

soft's European legal counsel, says: "In Germany, for example, the courts have said that to be sure a software copyright exists, you must prove very convincingly that your software is sufficiently original to qualify."

Germany's laws, however, are likely to change as a result of a European Community directive that will give member countries protection similar to that offered in Britain.

The alliance says that the problem, called unofficial copying by the courts and software piracy by program developers, is costing members billions.

Alliance members claim they lose £300 million in Britain and more than £3 billion in Europe annually because people do not buy the same number of copies of a software package as are in use on their computers.

A MORI poll puts the number of illegal copiers at more than two million. Those who privately admit they copy sometimes argue that packages costing perhaps

£500 are just too expensive when they have to equip an office or company with dozens of personal computers, even with discounts for bulk buying.

"We do not think price is a determinant," Mr Davies says. "Some of the most frequently copied packages are often the cheapest." They are also the most popular.

Sympathy, however, is often lacking for some software companies, such as Microsoft, which has announced enormous increased profits during a fierce recession that has hit the manufacturers of the computers themselves.

As a result of Britain's tough laws, all but the most expensive packages are no longer being copy-protected at source to prevent counterfeiters being made because of the annoyance this can cause genuine purchasers.

"We think that this is an insult to our customers and the law in the UK could not be clearer - copying

is illegal," Mr Davies says.

Software protection is retained for countries, such as some in the Middle East, where software can be copied with impunity. Without protection, however, making a perfect copy of a software package can be easier than photocopying a page of a book.

"Some of the worst offenders are the computer-literate, who are naturally inquisitive and always interested when they are shown a new product. They tend to ask whether they can take a copy and try it," Mr Davies says.

This can often provide employers with one of their biggest problems - employees who copy software without their bosses' knowledge yet leave the employer liable to prosecution.

The answer, says Bob Hay, the chief executive of Britain's Federation Against Software Theft, (FAST), is to make clear that such practices will not be tolerated and that copying software must be at least a disciplinary offence.

Although FAST works with the

alliance, its approach is generally more carrot than stick. Fast says it favours education above prosecution, and its measures include offering organisations a free program to check whether they have pirate software.

The free program, which can test for the presence of about 700 of the best-known programs, creates an inventory of what is being used to compare with a list of those that have been purchased properly.

Fast also runs what it calls a corporate membership scheme, to which 18 organisations now belong. For £500 a year, members are provided with software audit support and guidelines for establishing a software policy.

Mr Hay is also aware of the deterrent effect from the raids. He says: "Following the Greenwich case, I have written to every local authority in the country offering to help in any way we can."

So far two have joined the membership scheme - Cardiff city council and Stratford-upon-Avon district council.

Mr Hay wants prosecution concentrated on computer dealers who copy software and pass it on to customers either as an added inducement when selling a personal computer or even with a charge for it. There are also professional copying operations that can even provide near perfect copies of the manuals that go with the programs.

He says: "This is far too widespread, and in many cases users buy thinking they have got the original software package."

Software developers have been helped by the advent of the computer virus. The prevalence of viruses is fiercely debated within the industry. Some experts believe the threat is greatly exaggerated by those selling anti-virus or antidote products.

Those that exist are often spread by introducing an apparently innocuous disc into a computer system. Hence, using a pirate copy of a software package when nobody really knows where it came from can be dangerous as well as illegal.

Companies cannot protect themselves against offended employees or former employees who can use a special hotline set up by FAST to shop employers they know are guilty of copying software.

Mr Hay says that last year FAST received about 500 calls, 300 of which turned out to be genuine complaints. A stiff warning letter was used to deal with most of the complaints.

Birthday virus alert

COMPUTER experts are saying that the Michelangelo virus has spread widely and will hit millions of computers worldwide on the artist's birthday, March 6. John McAfee, the chairman of the United States Computer Virus Industry Association, who is considered a world authority, says the virus, first found in Sweden and The Netherlands last April, is estimated to have infected five million personal computers.

The virus spreads via computer bulletin boards or infected floppy disks, and is intended to overwrite computer documents with gibberish. The virus loads itself on to a hard disc and will copy itself on to any program inserted in the computer.

Healthy ticker

A WATCH that can measure blood pressure goes on sale in Japan at the end of this month. "All you have to do is put your finger on the wrist watch for about 30 seconds," says Casio Computer, the



manufacturer. "Two sensors inside will then gauge the blood pressure." The company intends to export the watch, which will cost £80.

Dell settles

DELL Computer has agreed to pay Compaq undisclosed damages in a settlement that removes all pending litigation. Compaq sued Dell, in Britain and the United States, over advertisements comparing the two companies' machines, which Compaq claimed were false.

Science page, Life & Times section page 8

A brain in charge of water

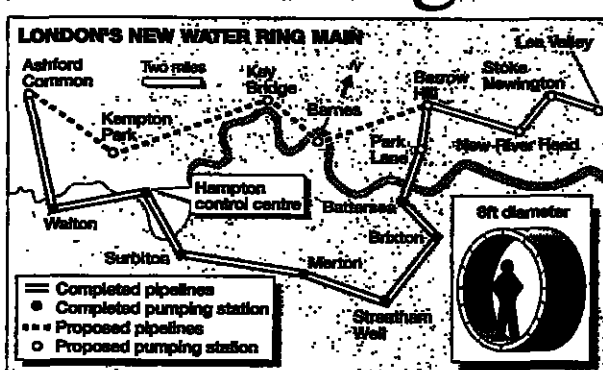
AN ELECTRONIC brain that will learn when some communities give regular street parties and when others have bought thirsty plants has been switched on by Thames Water.

The "expert system" computer, built to spot and compensate for local patterns and trends in London's water consumption, is the linchpin in the £250 million scheme to upgrade the supply through a 50-mile ring main circling from Ashford Common in the west to the Lea Valley in the east.

At the London Water Control Centre in Hampton, where the computer is based, staff expect to manage better the 285 million gallons that will flow daily via the ring from the rivers and treatment works.

Sensors, linked into the centre, are being fitted to the new automatic pumping stations, treatment works and areas in the network where river water is sucked into the supply.

Faults such as burst mains, faulty treatment works or pumping station break-



downs are relayed through a fibre optic telecommunications cable being fitted alongside the underground ring. Electronic coloured maps of the network then flash up, locating the fault and allowing staff to zoom in on, say, a pumping station or even a part within one of the pumps.

Meanwhile, the electronic brain is compensating for any breakdown, automatically re-routing supplies via local mains networks.

"We could supply Strea-

tham pumping station goes down by routing through subsidiary mains," says Bill Alexander, Thames Water's technical manager. The computer, which uses software developed during the past five years by M31 Systems of Longueville, Canada, for the utility company Hydro Quebec, can also instruct treatment works and river water abstraction plants to step up production to compensate for supply losses, as would be the case after a burst.

Mr Alexander says the new

system might even make the water taste better.

"At our treatment works we have to disinfect the water so that there is enough residual chlorine there to disinfect the mains right up to the washer on a customer's tap," he explains.

"With the new system we shall be able to distribute the water more quickly, so we can reduce the amount of chlorine. The water's taste should improve."

The new ring system, due for completion in 1996, should also lead to fewer burst pipes. The older London distribution system involved pumping water through underground mains at high pressure.

In the new system, water is moved from reservoirs in the west to the east of London through gravity. Mr Alexander says this means less pressure on local mains networks.

The gravity method should also help to save about £1 million a year in pumping costs.

NICK NUTTALL

Apple claims £2.5 billion

APPLE Computer is asking for nearly £2.5 billion from the software company Microsoft as recompense for lost sales because of alleged infringement of copyright, Matthew May writes.

Apple produces the only large range of personal computers that are not compatible with the de facto standard established by IBM.

While the rest of the industry copied IBM, Apple survived largely because of an innovative picture-based software system that used graphics and icons, making its computers easier and more enjoyable to use than the purely text-based IBM-compatible computers.

Since Microsoft produced the highly successful Win-

dows program, which does the same trick for other computers, Apple screen displays were no longer unique. Because of this, Apple claims to have lost \$3 billion (£1.65 billion) in sales, directly because of Windows, and a further \$1.35 billion (£750 million) from associated Microsoft products.

As Apple computers have come to be far nearer everybody else's, it has had to compete more on price. The

launch of considerably cheaper versions of its computers has increased sales but dented profit margins. Last week the company cut prices in the United States on some of its models by up to 36 per cent in a price war that shows little sign of ending.

The fiercely competitive market has forced Apple into a curious alliance with arch rival IBM, which has also quarrelled with Microsoft over the development of a new operating system.

The copyright case has been running in the US for four years but Microsoft announced the amount being sought this week only after a legal memorandum received this month from Apple.

Apple said the amount was not necessarily the formal damage claim that would be presented at the trial but was an expert opinion of what the alleged infringement cost in lost revenues and profits.

Microsoft and Hewlett-Packard, which is also being sued by Apple, have argued that Apple's claim is insupportable because much of the work was licensed between the companies and was not original to Apple or involves functions not protected by copyright laws. A Microsoft statement said: "Microsoft considers Apple's damage claim to be insupportable and speculative. These Windows products were not copied. They resulted from years of hard work by dedicated Microsoft employees."

Apple is accusing the two companies of stealing original work when developing their graphic-based systems. The whole issue of software companies reproducing the successful products of their rivals is murky.

Some argue that only programs that copy the same method of arriving at a particular screen display should be considered guilty, while others claim that emulating the "look and feel" of a software package should be considered a copyright infringement, even where the program code used to arrive at the result is totally different.

Call for entries to the 1993 Toshiba Year of Invention

Have you got an invention which could change the world? Or even a small part of it? If so, this year's Toshiba Year of Invention is a great chance to turn your ideas into reality - and win a prize at the same time.

Your invention could be something to do with your work, a hobby, or perhaps the result of a project at school or college.

It doesn't matter where your inspiration comes from, and anyone can enter. Previous winners and finalists have come from all walks of life.

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England must guard against ragged start

The opportunity to become the dominant power in international rugby, certainly in the northern hemisphere and perhaps the world, is within England's grasp. We are searching for the first time in the history of modern rugby a situation where England are the force in this part of the world. The key is whether a side can put together back-to-back wins of a sizeable margin, whether it can achieve a position of ascendancy and maintain it.

I believe we have taken strides towards this. It began in Paris two years ago, when we won 26-7 with a performance regarded as very efficient. That was followed by the 25-6 win in Wales last January, and our 25-7 vic-

tory over Scotland at Murrayfield at the start of this five nations' championship campaign. Then, two weeks ago, came the 38-9 win over Ireland.

That is a reasonable start, but unless in the next two to three years we can put together more big wins, especially away from home, we shall not achieve our ambition. You have to do it much more regularly than we have.

There will be a lot of changes in the England side during the next 12 months, and we have to see how the new players integrate. But none can doubt the system is now working better. When you think of the number of players we have to choose from, I believe England should always be a major



Rob Andrew looks at the challenge facing the England team as it endeavours to become a dominant force in international rugby

world force. There are some good young forwards around and a few decent backs. It will be a matter of bringing them into a system which is working well.

Tackling the French in Paris tomorrow will provide further proof. Some say we are firm favourites to win, but while I concede that perhaps going to the Parc des Princes is no longer so daunting a prospect, it is still a very tough proposition. Even though we were sur-

prised to see Roumat omitted from the French side yesterday, the French always have talented players in every position. If we are not 100 per cent on top of our game, I have no hesitation in saying we will get rolled over.

We have had one reminder of that already this season. If we play tomorrow as we did in the first half against Scotland we are likely to reach half-time at least 15 points down. You don't come back from that in international

rugby. We were lucky to get away with it in Scotland: to expect to do so again would be asking too much.

We may have scored a respectable 63 points in our opening two matches but the figures may be a shade misleading. There was plenty for us to work on at training this week because even against Ireland, who we outscored by six tries to one, we lost the ball far too much in the contact situation, conceding the push-in at the scrum or just losing possession. That cannot continue.

This season, under Dick Best, we have trained harder in the build-up to international matches than ever. We have stepped up the amount of physical work and technical preparation. We had a very

hard session on Wednesday night, yet if you go back two or three years, all the backs did on the Wednesday evening before a match was gathered for a chat.

The only allusion I wish to make to the World Cup quarter-final against France in Paris last October is to say that I believe the game this weekend has nothing to do with it. We have had some cracking games with France in recent years without any of the trouble we had in the World Cup. I believe the sudden-death pressure of the World Cup brought about those difficulties. But while there will undoubtedly be some hard forward exchanges tomorrow, I see no problems. When you play France, you have to be phys-

cally prepared for a hard confrontation, but plenty of matches against them in my time show that the aggression is usually controlled.

Having Dean Richards back in the side will be comforting. He offers such physical and mental strength. He is a grand character, so it will be good to see him there again. It is hard on Tim Rodber, but Geoff Cooke has often changed winning sides even though that it is the most difficult thing to do.

We shall look carefully at where to attack the French just as we did the Irish. But if we win, it will have required enormous hard work and concentration. Nothing less will suffice.

Interview by Peter Bills

New French recruit to play first game against England

First cap has vindicated van Heerden's decision

FROM DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT
IN PARIS

IF THE South Africans make their scheduled tour to France in October, one of their own will be waiting. Andries van Heerden, once of Stellenbosch but now of Tarbes, will win his first French cap against England tomorrow. He is likely to remain part of the squad that will play two internationals against South Africa in the autumn.

Van Heerden, whose mother's family came from England four generations ago, and who is a distant relation of Moaner van Heerden, the

former Springbok lock, follows the trend established by his compatriot, Eric Melville, also capped by France in the back row over the last two years. Both men have taken out French nationality and accept France — in van Heerden's case the Bigorre district — as their home.

It was lack of international opportunity that led van Heerden, who was 30 last October, to take the advice of the then Western Province coach, Dawie Snyman, and seek his rugby fortune in the northern hemisphere. Ironically, he wins his cap for his adopted country just when his native country is preparing to re-enter the international fold.

but, as he admitted yesterday, "with South Africa it is always a political situation".

"Maybe it happens this year, but problems remain," he said. "I have been here for six years. I have learned the French style. Perhaps I might have returned to South Africa but they have many good flankers and No. 8s and nobody would know me. I would have had no publicity."

Van Heerden, 6ft 5in and 15st 11lb, has been chosen for his lineout skills and his pace about the field. Representative honours might have come earlier to a player who did not rise above senior club level before he left the Cape: he played for Tarbes in the

1988 cup final but then suffered a double fracture of the left ankle. He was poised to appear for the French Barbarians against the New Zealanders two seasons ago, but again injury intervened.

There was, though, a positive side to his misfortune: his visits to the physiotherapist brought a chance meeting with an injured skier, Noelle, who became his wife. Then his luck turned when Abdelatif Benazzi broke a bone in his hand playing for Agen and withdrew from the reshaped French squad last month, leaving a vacancy.

"It's important for French rugby that we play well on Saturday," van Heerden said, and Pierre Berbizier has imprinted on our minds that we must not let ourselves go. We are not going out for a battle of giants, a boxing match. We are going for a game of rugby, we want to play the ball.

"My main problem, I think, will be the emotion of the occasion, standing in the Parc in front of 50,000 people. It happened at the cup final but this is an international and I know I have to concentrate from the start."

The air traffic controller from Tarbes airport, which serves among others as the landing ground for pilgrims heading for Lourdes, has finally brought lift-off to his own rugby career.



Training partners: van Heerden, right, and the France captain, Sella, yesterday

Mullin's injury has cleared

BRENDAN Mullin, the Ireland centre, has confirmed that he will be fit to win his 45th international cap tomorrow against Scotland at Lansdowne Road. Mullin is happy that the hamstring twinge he felt while warming up for a club game last Saturday has responded to treatment.

Ireland, who have lost their two five nations' matches, know that another defeat would probably condemn them to the wooden spoon. Before training yesterday the

squad watched a video of Scotland's match against England. "We noted how Scotland reacted when they got possession and we are trying to focus on the specific requirements needed to win this particular game," Ciaran Fitzgerald, the Ireland coach, said. "We all want to win, but if you concentrate too much on the notion of winning it can affect an individual's game. We want everyone just to concentrate on doing his own job."

The Scotland squad

trained for almost two hours at Murrayfield before flying to Dublin. There had been some concern earlier about Scott Hastings, who had a swollen ankle, but the swelling has subsided and the centre will play without protective strapping.

The assistant coach, Douglas Morgan, cautioned against complacency. "Ireland won a lot of good possession at Twickenham and in Neil Francis have the best lineout jumper in the home unions," he said.

Time running out for Fairbrother and DeFreitas to prove fitness for World Cup

Injuries frustrate England

FROM ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
IN CHRISTCHURCH

A WEEK before they begin their World Cup programme, England will once again be prevented from fielding their best one-day side when they complete the three-match series against New Zealand at Lancaster Park tomorrow.

Injuries to Phil DeFreitas and Neil Fairbrother, which initially seemed minor interruptions, are now a serious frustration both to the team and the individuals.

DeFreitas has at least had plenty of cricket on the tour, but the reluctant recovery of his groin strain is more of a worry to the tour management than it cares to admit. England's senior seam bowler saw a consultant yesterday, and was advised that further rest is necessary. But time is beginning to run out on him.

If, as expected, he is obliged to miss tomorrow's game, he has only one remaining chance to test his fitness before the World Cup party must be officially lodged with the organising committee in

Australia. That will come in Sydney next Tuesday, when a full-scale practice match has been organised in which all 14 members of the England squad are scheduled to play. This is also the target for Fairbrother, who has been in New Zealand seven weeks but has batted only four times, the last occasion five weeks ago.

Fairbrother, a model tour player, has waited with patient good humour for the opportunities which were always likely to come his way once the itinerary returned to limited-overs cricket. He would have played in both of this week's one-day games but, irritatingly, strained his side in the unfamiliar act of bowling in the nets.

He must by now have reached the stage of not knowing if he is in or out of form. Although he would feature in England's strongest side, probably batting at No. 5, it will be as much of a risk to pitch him straight into next Saturday's first Cup fixture, against India, as it will be to name DeFreitas in the squad with the fear that he might break down again.

This latter concern undoubtedly influenced the decision to reinforce the bowling strength from outside the original selection. Gladstone Small arrived here yesterday, surprised but relieved to be back with England after an anonymous year.

Small makes no bones about how disappointing his own performance was in Australia last winter. "At the end of it I was mentally and physically fatigued from 14



Fairbrother: patient

months' cricket," he said. "You can always get over physical things, but the mental side was harder, and at the start of the home season I was not looking forward to my cricket."

"I got to the stage where I wondered if I was even good enough to get into the Warwickshire side."

Experience of the one-day game won Small his chances at the end of a winter in which his preoccupation has been his benefit year, and his only cricket the indoor variety. He says he is fit, however, and he is likely to go straight into the England side tomorrow, providing he comes through his first net session today satisfactorily.

With this series already won, there is limited competitive interest in the last match, and England will inevitably use it to test out some of their World Cup strategies.

Flexibility is the keyword of this side and there may well be changes in the batting order tomorrow, one likelihood being that Ian Botham will open the innings, a role he will fulfil in some, but not all, of the Cup programme.

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL

Welsh Cup would be prized at Colwyn Bay

BY WALTER GAMMIE

WINNING the Welsh Cup would be sweet for Colwyn Bay, who reached the semi-finals by beating Wrexham 3-1 at the Racecourse Ground on Tuesday. It would be a defiant gesture to the Welsh FA, which has won its fight with Welsh non-league clubs over withdrawing their entitlement to play in English leagues.

An independent appeal board found that only Merthyr Tydfil, of the GM Vauxhall Conference, should be allowed to stay where they are. Newport AFC and Barry Town, of the Beazer Homes League, Caernarfon, Newtown, Rhyl, Bangor and Colwyn Bay, of the HFS Loans League, were advised that they should switch their allegiance to a newly established League of Wales.

The Welsh FA initiated the League of Wales to secure another path to European competition outside the Welsh Cup and protect the country's identity before Fifa, the game's governing body, in face of other countries' covetous gaze at the separate representation of the home countries in international competition.

Colwyn Bay had left Welsh League football in the late

seventies, with Welsh FA blessing, as talented footballers from Merseyside and Manchester, seeking their fortune on the "gold coast" of North Wales, raised standards. They led the first division of the HFS Loans League, having been promoted last season from the Bass North West Counties League.

"We are just not prepared to go into the League of Wales," Alan Banks, the Colwyn Bay secretary, said. "We believe it would lower our standards and we cannot afford to travel down to South Wales each week."

"What we want to do is win the league, the league cup and the Welsh Cup, but if we do that, we wouldn't have a team to play in Europe. The manager and players have all said they will leave and join English clubs."

Gaiseley, the holders, moved into the quarter-finals of the FA Vase by beating Edgware Town 4-0 on Saturday, with Ian Noteman scoring two goals for the third round in a row. Gordon Rayner, the Gaiseley manager, fears Sudbury Town most of the remaining clubs.

FA VASE QUARTER-FINALS: Gaisley v Edgware Town; Doss Town v Newcastle Town; Wotton v West Midlands Police; Sudbury Town, Chertsey v Bamber Bridge. Ties to be played on February 23.

FOOTBALL

7.30 unless stated
GM Vauxhall Conference
Stafford v Yeovil (8.0)

NEVILLE OVERSEEN COMBINATION:
Norwich v Oxford
HARP LABER FA CUP: First round:
Barnham v Buxton
BASS NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Great Harwood v Atherton RU.

RUGBY UNION
Representative match:
Irish Students v Scottish Students (at Sydney Park)

Club matches:
Askeans v Sileatham C (don 7.30)
Aspetrie v Hawick (7.15)

Blackheath v Bath (7.30)
Bradford v Gloucester (7.15)
Coventry v Northampton (7.15)
Kettering v Melrose (7.0)
Mossley v Stewarts (7.0)

RUGBY LEAGUE
YOUNGERS ALLIANCE: First division:
Oldham v Carlisle (7.30) Second division: Swinton v Keighley (7.30)
Challenge Cup: Second round:
Huddersfield v Featherstone (7.30); Ryedale v Wigan (8.0); Salford v Widnes (7.30)

OTHER SPORT
SHOCKER: Regal Welsh Open (Newport, Gt.)
SWIMMING: Speedo British grand prix meet (Cardiff)
TENNIS: LTA women's indoor satellite (Telford); LTA women's satellite (Swindon)

RACING

Leicester treble for Pipe team

By MICHAEL SEELY

DESPITE a last-race fall on Kayfaal, Peter Scudamore continued in sparkling form at Leicester yesterday when landing a treble for Martin Pipe on Terao, Gold Medal and Milford Quay.

The Oadby three-timer, coupled with the victory of Diamond Cut at Taunton, gave a welcome boost to the Wellington team before Carvill's Hill goes on trial in the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup at Leopardstown on Sunday.

Scudamore admitted to having mixed feelings about travelling to Ireland to ride the Cheltenham Gold Cup and Grand National favourite.

"In a way I'm looking forward to it and in a way I'm nervous," he said. "The pressure's really on. He's already being compared to Ardie and Burrough Hill Lad, but he's still got a lot to prove."

Surprisingly the champion jockey is still seeking a first victory over the Leopardstown fences. Recalling a previous visit, Scudamore said: "I once tried to take a short cut from the second last on Lastofthetwelves, missed some dells, won the race but was disqualified."

Scudamore, showing all the thoroughness that has seen him win the title seven times, sought the advice of Albert Butler, the Leicester groundsmen, before riding Terao in the opening Oadby National Hunt Novices' Hurdle.

Taking Terao away from the rails on the far side of the course and then crossing over to the far rails in the home straight, Scudamore brought his mount home a 25-length winner from This Noble Danger.

Explaining his manoeuvre, Scudamore said: "I always ask the groundsmen where the best going is. The only reason you heard about it today is I asked Chester Barnes [Pipe's assistant] to do it for me."

The best performance of the afternoon was put up by Henry Mann, who beat Rye Again by a decisive two-and-a-half lengths in the Wren Chase.

This victory, after an absence from the course of 14 months, represented a fine feat of training by Simon Christian with a horse who was good enough to win the Coral Golden Hurdle final under top weight.

"He's always been a good horse but he had leg problems," Christian said. "The present objective is the Cartcart at Cheltenham. But if he's all right and we're feeling greedy, we could go for the Timeform Chase at Haydock first."

Sirrah Jay on course for Aintree

SIRRAH Jay earned a possible tilt at the Grand National when notching his fifth success of the season in the three-runner Lonsborough Handicap Chase at Sandown yesterday.

The 6-4 favourite's task was made considerably easier when Nedform, who beat him at Chertsey two weeks ago, took a crashing fall in front of the stands.

Josh Gifford's gelding cleared the fence with plenty to spare, but landed clumsily. It looked a bad tumble but both horse and rider Richard Dunwoody escaped unscathed.

Sirrah Jay maintained a healthy lead over his other rival, Clara Mountain, for the remainder of the race and never looked in danger.

The 12-year-old is leased by John Gale, who said: "We'd like to take Sirrah Jay to Liverpool. He looks the right type for the National but his trainer, Toby Balding, will have the final say."

Sirrah Jay, set to carry 9st 3lb at Liverpool, is a 40-1 chance to give Balding a third National success.

Two of Sirrah Jay's wins were wiped out by the mix-up over Adrian Maguire's claim.

New York Rainbow completed a treble in impressive style when quickening smoothly to beat Mountain Kingdon by two-and-a-half lengths in the Village Novices' Hurdle.

Nicky Henderson's seven-year-old is likely to have more race before his main target, the Trafalgar House Supreme Novices' Hurdle at Cheltenham.

"He's quite a snuffy horse, so this run has done him good and I'll probably run him again at Kempton next week," Henderson said.

White is the swinging colour of the moment

FROM JOHN WOODCOCK
IN ADELAIDE

THE white cricket ball has become something of an oddity. When it came into being, with the introduction of night cricket, it was reckoned not to swing anything like as much as the traditional ball. Now there are times when it swings so much that it is difficult to control.

After seeing how much work one of his own opening bowlers, Meyrick Pringle, got on a white ball here on Wednesday, Kepler Wessels, who will be captaining South Africa in the World Cup, said that he saw prob-

lems ahead if whites were to be kept in check. He quotes Alan Border as saying that because of the hazards now associated with playing the white ball early in an innings, Australia are intending to set targets of 45 or 50 runs after 15 overs rather than of 60, as they once did.

What seems to have happened is that to give the white ball more chance of keeping its colour and also of swinging, its makers have taken to applying more lacquer than they did. There are also two balls in use in the same innings, one at each end which allows the shen to last longer. The balls are also wiped clean by

the umpires at the end of each over.

Despite that, in an average wet English summer more like half-a-dozen white balls would sometimes be needed, as they are in a game of hockey, if they were not to become practically invisible. They would like to play some first-class Sheffield Shield cricket at night here in Australia. But that would mean using only one ball, and a single white one would soon become discoloured, a red one could not be seen and when an orange ball was experimented with it was not considered suitable.

Not even the new white

ball swings always, or for everyone. At Perth last Sunday, Alderman and Reid for example, swung it much more during the afternoon than the same Meyrick Pringle did when the sun was going down at around 7 o'clock. In Adelaide on Wednesday, bowling in the afternoon, Pringle and Snell swung it much more than the local bowlers had earlier in the day. There will still be times, I fancy, even with the new white ball, when some of the medium-pacers in the World Cup are made to look like cannon fodder.

Already it is evident, from what one has seen in three warm-up matches, what a

lack of uniformity there is going to be when it comes to judging wides.

Australian umpires, perhaps because so few of them have played the game to any sort of level, seem not to realise that the ball sliding away down the leg side is infinitely harder for batsmen to get at than one correspondingly wide of the off stump. All being well, though, interpretation, even if it varies from end to end, will be the same for all sides.

WORLD CUP UMPIRES: P. J. McConnell (Aus), S. G. Rendell (Aus), B. L. Aldridge (NZ), S. J. Woodward (NZ), D. R. Shepherd (Eng), P. D. Reppert (Ind), C. H. Lloyd (Pak), K. E. Lushington (SA), D. P. Buzinec (Sri Lanka), S. W. Buzinec (W. Indes), I. D. Robinson (Zim).

Gambling Royal can extend winning sequence to five

WITH David Barons' horses beginning to find their form at long last it will be interesting to see how Seagram fares when he contests the Kiss 'N' Cuddle Handicap Chase at Sandown today.

So far this season, the winner of last year's Grand National has had only two races, neither of which have exactly raised hopes that he is on course to give a repeat performance at Liverpool at the beginning of April.

To be fair to Seagram, though, there were valid excuses on both occasions. First time out at Cheltenham he injured a foreleg when slipping into a fence and that inevitably led to time off.

When he did finally reappear at Warwick midway through last month, his stable was going through a bad patch that has been blamed on too high a nitrate level being detected in a delivery of hay.

On that occasion, Seagram could only finish fifth behind Woodgate, beaten so far that it was simply too bad to be true.

While he is not a big horse to be shouldering much as 12 stone, I still expect to see

MICHAEL PHILLIPS

him run a deal better without managing to give 24lb to Gambling Royal whose improvement this season is such a fine testament to the skill of his trainer David Nicholson. A fifth consecutive victory looks on the cards here.

Earlier in the programme, Nicholson will saddle Al Hashimi for the Heartthrob Handicap Chase under top weight.

It also says something for horse and trainer alike that this eight-year-old continues to hold his form even though he has been twice and a half hobbled besides having had some palatable and tie-back operations.

Last time out Al Hashimi was runner-up to Edberg over today's course and distance. Now it remains to be seen whether he can do any better against Elfast, who is also overdue a victory after a consistent but winless season.

John Webber, Elfast's trainer, also has a good chance of winning the Blind

Date Conditional Jockeys' Handicap Hurdle with Red Ring. Significantly, he has snapped up Adrian Maguire to ride this five-year-old who was a good third behind Jeaus and As Good As Gold at Warwick recently.

The Sandown programme begins with a look at Wakashan, who has been backed at long odds to win the Triumph Hurdle at Cheltenham, making his jumping debut in the St Valentine's Day Novices' Hurdle.

A one-time leading fancy for the Derby last year when he was trained by Henry Cecil, Wakashan was sold to his present trainer Kevin Morgan for only 4,000 guineas, his legs having continued to give trouble following a comfortable victory at Newmarket first time out last spring.

A workout at Towcester after racing on Tuesday convinced Morgan that Wakashan is now ready and able to do himself justice again and he is narrowly preferred to Absalom's Lady, who has also been entered for the Triumph after winning by six lengths at Fontwell in December.

Copper Mine is napped to continue his winning ways by landing the EBF Sweetheart National Hunt Novices' Hurdle at the expense of the Nicky Henderson-trained Current Express who showed a degree of promise in two bumpers last season when trained by Sally Hall.

Having trounced Jodani at Ascot nine days ago, Danny Harold should be capable of coping with Buck Willow in the L'Amour Novices' Chase, especially as the latter has been bitterly disappointing in his two races since winning convincingly over today's course and distance in the autumn.

Webber double prospects with Elfast and Red Ring

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Webber double prospects with Elfast and Red Ring

Racegoers back Sunday move

PROFESSIONALS yesterday welcomed the results of a survey conducted by The Sporting Life which showed that 69 per cent of racegoers are in favour of Sunday racing.

Nick Lees, clerk of the course at Newmarket and Leicester, said: "It's got to come. I can see it being a tremendous success at tracks like Newmarket in high summer. Our Friday evenings already attract bigger crowds than at any other time except for 2,000 Guineas day and Champion Stakes day."

"They draw in a different section of the community. They are special occasions and I can see Sundays being the same."

Peter Scudamore, the reigning champion National Hunt jockey, is also a strong supporter. "It's good to see so many people in favour," he said. "The leisure market is so competitive and racing has got to get up off its backside if it wants to get its share of it."

"I'm also glad to see the Jockey Club taking the initiative as in the past they've let so many opportunities slip by."

EDINBURGH

MANDARIN
1.45 GYMCRACK STARDOM. 2.15 Grey Minstrel. 2.45 Good Profile. 3.20 Corner. 3.50 Polar Region. 4.20 Paddy Hayton. 4.50 Free Native.

THUNDERER
1.45 GYMCRACK STARDOM. (nap). 2.15 Grey Minstrel. 2.45 Good Profile. 3.20 Corner. 3.50 Polar Region. 4.20 Paddy Hayton. 4.50 Free Native.

GOING: GOOD

1.45 JIMMY MURPHY MEMORIAL NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (21.525: 2m 4f) (10 runners)

1 112P WEST WITH THE WIND 13 (D.F.G.) G Moore 5-11-12
2 15 POSTAGE STAMP 34 (D.F.G.) J Pearce 5-11-12
3 111F CHARLOTTE'S EMMA 86 (D.F.G.) M J McLaughlin 5-11-12
4 1113 RAPID SLANE 80 (D.F.G.) W A Stephenson 5-11-12
5 001 GYMCRACK STARDOM 6 (G) M H Eassey 5-11-12 (7m)
6 8221 NOODLE 7 (D.G.) L Large 4-10-13 (7m)
7 2643 JULIETTE 7 (M) H Eassey 4-10-13
8 046 NO FRILLS 378 (W) S W 7-10-12
9 3386 LITTLE SUFFRONS 48 (D) T Cunningham 5-10-12
10 PP-2 LITTLE SUFFRONS 48 (D) T Cunningham 5-10-12

7-4 GYMCRACK STARDOM, 4-1 Noodle, 5-1 West With The Wind, 7-4 Charlotte's Emma, 8-1 Juliette, Rapid Slane, 12-1 others

2.15 HOWGATE MAIDEN CHASE (22.015: 2m) (15)

1 364 DICKIE'S GIN 41 (G) J Wade 5-11-12
2 3600 DUTCH SCHULZ 75 (L) S Leach 5-11-12
3 32F GREY MINSTREL 32 (D.F.G.) M J McLaughlin 5-11-12
4 32F GREY MINSTREL 32 (D.F.G.) M J McLaughlin 5-11-12
5 32F GREY MINSTREL 32 (D.F.G.) M J McLaughlin 5-11-12
6 32F GREY MINSTREL 32 (D.F.G.) M J McLaughlin 5-11-12
7 32F GREY MINSTREL 32 (D.F.G.) M J McLaughlin 5-11-12
8 32F GREY MINSTREL 32 (D.F.G.) M J McLaughlin 5-11-12
9 32F GREY MINSTREL 32 (D.F.G.) M J McLaughlin 5-11-12
10 32F GREY MINSTREL 32 (D.F.G.) M J McLaughlin 5-11-12

7-4 GYMCRACK STARDOM, 4-1 Noodle, 5-1 West With The Wind, 7-4 Charlotte's Emma, 8-1 Juliette, Rapid Slane, 12-1 others

2.45 HARCOS SCOTTISH JUVENILE HURDLE (Qualifier: £1,945: 2m) (4)

1 1111 GOOD PROFILE 20 (D.F.G.) G Moore 5-11-12
2 1111 GOOD PROFILE 20 (D.F.G.) G Moore 5-11-12
3 1111 GOOD PROFILE 20 (D.F.G.) G Moore 5-11-12
4 1111 GOOD PROFILE 20 (D.F.G.) G Moore 5-11-12

7-4 GYMCRACK STARDOM, 4-1 Noodle, 5-1 West With The Wind, 7-4 Charlotte's Emma, 8-1 Juliette, Rapid Slane, 12-1 others

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: 7 Fairhurst, 2 winners from 5 runners, 40%
Jockey: 15 from 47, 31.9%
Jockey: 15 from 47, 31.9%
Jockey: 15 from 47, 31.9%

JOCKEYS: Mr K Anderson, 2 winners from 4 rides, 50.0%
Jockey: 15 from 47, 31.9%
Jockey: 15 from 47, 31.9%
Jockey: 15 from 47, 31.9%

GOING: STANDARD

DRAW: 5M-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST

1.50 SEALED WITH A LOVING KISS HANDICAP (22.02: 2m) (8 runners)

1 54 CHRONOLOGICAL 18 (D.F.G.) M J McLaughlin 5-10-12
2 11 BRIDGE PLAYER 14 (D.F.G.) M J McLaughlin 5-10-12
3 0221 MALENOIR 14 (D.F.G.) M J McLaughlin 5-10-12
4 0221 MALENOIR 14 (D.F.G.) M J McLaughlin 5-10-12
5 0221 MALENOIR 14 (D.F.G.) M J McLaughlin 5-10-12
6 0221 MALENOIR 14 (D.F.G.) M J McLaughlin 5-10-12
7 0221 MALENOIR 14 (D.F.G.) M J McLaughlin 5-10-12
8 0221 MALENOIR 14 (D.F.G.) M J McLaughlin 5-10-12

7-4 GYMCRACK STARDOM, 4-1 Noodle, 5-1 West With The Wind, 7-4 Charlotte's Emma, 8-1 Juliette, Rapid Slane, 12-1 others

2.20 CUPID CLAIMING STAKES (22.02: 2m) (12)

1 031 LE TEMPLAIRE 10 (D.F.G.) M J McLaughlin 5-10-12
2 031 LE TEMPLAIRE 10 (D.F.G.) M J McLaughlin 5-10-12
3 031 LE TEMPLAIRE 10 (D.F.G.) M J McLaughlin 5-10-12
4 031 LE TEMPLAIRE 10 (D.F.G.) M J McLaughlin 5-10-12
5 031 LE TEMPLAIRE 10 (D.F.G.) M J McLaughlin 5-10-12
6 031 LE TEMPLAIRE 10 (D.F.G.) M J McLaughlin 5-10-12
7 031 LE TEMPLAIRE 10 (D.F.G.) M J McLaughlin 5-10-12
8 031 LE TEMPLAIRE 10 (D.F.G.) M J McLaughlin 5-10-12

7-4 GYMCRACK STARDOM, 4-1 Noodle, 5-1 West With The Wind, 7-4 Charlotte's Emma, 8-1 Juliette, Rapid Slane, 12-1 others

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: Lord Huntingdon, 4 winners from 12 runners, 33.3%
Jockey: 15 from 47, 31.9%
Jockey: 15 from 47, 31.9%
Jockey: 15 from 47, 31.9%

JOCKEYS: Mr K Anderson, 2 winners from 4 rides, 50.0%
Jockey: 15 from 47, 31.9%
Jockey: 15 from 47, 31.9%
Jockey: 15 from 47, 31.9%

GOING: GOOD

DRAW: 5M-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST

1.50 SEALED WITH A LOVING KISS HANDICAP (22.02: 2m) (8 runners)

1 54 CHRONOLOGICAL 18 (D.F.G.) M J McLaughlin 5-10-12
2 11 BRIDGE PLAYER 14 (D.F.G.) M J McLaughlin 5-10-12
3 0221 MALENOIR 14 (D.F.G.) M J McLaughlin 5-10-12
4 0221 MALENOIR 14 (D.F.G.) M J McLaughlin 5-10-12
5 0221 MALENOIR 14 (D.F.G.) M J McLaughlin 5-10-12
6 0221 MALENOIR 14 (D.F.G.) M J McLaughlin 5-10-12
7 0221 MALENOIR 14 (D.F.G.) M J McLaughlin 5-10-12
8 0221 MALENOIR 14 (D.F.G.) M J McLaughlin 5-10-12

7-4 GYMCRACK STARDOM, 4-1 Noodle, 5-1 West With The Wind, 7-4 Charlotte's Emma, 8-1 Juliette, Rapid Slane, 12-1 others

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: Lord Huntingdon, 4 winners from 12 runners, 33.3%
Jockey: 15 from 47, 31.9%
Jockey: 15 from 47, 31.9%
Jockey: 15 from 47, 31.9%

3.20 KILMANY CUP (Handicap chase: £2,725: 3m) (6)

1 1324 IDA'S DELIGHT 34 (D.F.G.) J Cherton 5-10-12
2 5040 TARTAN TAILOR 27 (D.F.G.) G Moore 5-11-12
3 3111 CORNET 56 (D.F.G.) M J McLaughlin 5-11-12
4 2500 KIRSTY'S BOY 88 (D.F.G.) M J McLaughlin 5-11-12
5 11F IN THE FASHION 35 (D.F.G.) M J McLaughlin 5-11-12
6 3122 RIVER HOUSE 41 (D.F.G.) M J McLaughlin 5-11-12

7-4 GYMCRACK STARDOM, 4-1 Noodle, 5-1 West With The Wind, 7-4 Charlotte's Emma, 8-1 Juliette, Rapid Slane, 12-1 others

3.50 MUSSELBURGH STAYERS HANDICAP HURDLE (22.083: 3m) (10)

1 1242 POLAR REGION 97 (D.F.G.) M J McLaughlin 5-11-12
2 114F POLAR REGION 97 (D.F.G.) M J McLaughlin 5-11-12
3 2520 SOUTHERN CASE 8 (D.F.G.) M J McLaughlin 5-11-12
4 44F REEDON 34 (D.F.G.) M J McLaughlin 5-11-12
5 1011 MONARU 27 (D.F.G.) M J McLaughlin 5-11-12
6 44F REEDON 34 (D.F.G.) M J McLaughlin 5-11-12

7-4 GYMCRACK STARDOM, 4-1 Noodle, 5-1 West With The Wind, 7-4 Charlotte's Emma, 8-1 Juliette, Rapid Slane, 12-1 others

4.20 FIVE HUNT CLUB CUP (Hunter chase: £1,145: 3m) (8)

1 154 PADDY HAYTON 8 (D.F.G.) M J McLaughlin 5-11-12
2 8 ASHVALE 340 R Bartlett 8-12-10
3 225 DEEP SPARTACUS 237 W A Stephenson 5-11-12
4 121 NEWLIFE CONNECTION 1350 (D.F.G.) M J McLaughlin 5-11-12
5 045 WESTWARD DRAFT 137 F Jester 5-11-12
6 10 HOBBS' GIRL 288 M S Rafter 5-11-12

7-4 GYMCRACK STARDOM, 4-1 Noodle, 5-1 West With The Wind, 7-4 Charlotte's Emma, 8-1 Juliette, Rapid Slane, 12-1 others

4.50 LEVY BOARD NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (21.34: 2m) (15)

1 0 ALGARI 20 G Richards 5-11-12
2 BROKE THE BANK W Kemp 5-11-12
3 BRUCE HAYTON 20 M J McLaughlin 5-11-12
4 0221 MALENOIR 14 (D.F.G.) M J McLaughlin 5-11-12
5 0221 MALENOIR 14 (D.F.G.) M J McLaughlin 5-11-12
6 0221 MALENOIR 14 (D.F.G.) M J McLaughlin 5-11-12
7 0221 MALENOIR 14 (D.F.G.) M J McLaughlin 5-11-12
8 0221 MALENOIR 14 (D.F.G.) M J McLaughlin 5-11-12

7-4 GYMCRACK STARDOM, 4-1 Noodle, 5-1 West With The Wind, 7-4 Charlotte's Emma, 8-1 Juliette, Rapid Slane, 12-1 others

2.50 LOVE CHANGES EVERYTHING HANDICAP (22.147: 6f) (8)

1 124 FRIENDLY CLAIM 21 (D.F.G.) T Barron 4-10-12
2 030 CORN FUTURES 106 (D.F.G.) J Leach 4-10-12
3 030 CORN FUTURES 106 (D.F.G.) J Leach 4-10-12
4 450 GOODY FOUR SHOES 130 (D) T Tucker 4-10-12
5 0221 SALADAN KNIGHT 7 (D.F.G.) J Chapman 4-10-12
6 0050 STATE GOVERNOR 16 (D) J Chapman 4-10-12

7-4 GYMCRACK STARDOM, 4-1 Noodle, 5-1 West With The Wind, 7-4 Charlotte's Emma, 8-1 Juliette, Rapid Slane, 12-1 others

3.25 SWEET NOTHING'S CLAIMING STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,048: 1m) (5)

1 3-41 BASSIO 7 (D.F.G.) A Allen 4-10-12
2 4-18 EARLY STAR 7 (D.F.G.) T Barron 4-10-12
3 030 CORN FUTURES 106 (D.F.G.) J Leach 4-10-12
4 450 GOODY FOUR SHOES 130 (D) T Tucker 4-10-12
5 0221 SALADAN KNIGHT 7 (D.F.G.) J Chapman 4-10-12
6 0050 STATE GOVERNOR 16 (D) J Chapman 4-10-12

7-4 GYMCRACK STARDOM, 4-1 Noodle, 5-1 West With The Wind, 7-4 Charlotte's Emma, 8-1 Juliette, Rapid Slane, 12-1 others

4.25 SAY IT WITH ROSES HANDICAP (22.324: 7f) (14)

1 358 PESIDANMARCH 20 (D.F.G.) T Barron 4-10-12
2 20-1 FOULISH TOUCH 21 (D.F.G.) M J McLaughlin 5-10-12
3 000 CAROUSELLA 95 (D) C Britton 4-10-12
4 4-18 EARLY STAR 7 (D.F.G.) T Barron 4-10-12
5 030 CORN FUTURES 106 (D.F.G.) J Leach 4-10-12
6 450 GOODY FOUR SHOES 130 (D) T Tucker 4-10-12

7-4 GYMCRACK STARDOM, 4-1 Noodle, 5-1 West With The Wind, 7-4 Charlotte's Emma, 8-1 Juliette, Rapid Slane, 12-1 others

5.00 THATCHER'S CLUB 101 (D.F.G.) M J McLaughlin 5-10-12

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1 1242 POLAR REGION 97 (D.F.G.) M J McLaughlin 5-11-12
2 114F POLAR REGION 97 (D.F.G.) M J McLaughlin 5-11-12
3 2520 SOUTHERN CASE 8 (D.F.G.) M J McLaughlin 5-11-12
4 44F REEDON 34 (D.F.G.) M J McLaughlin 5-11-12
5 1011 MONARU 27 (D.F.G.) M J McLaughlin 5-11-12
6 44F REEDON 34 (D.F.G.) M J McLaughlin 5-11-12

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4.20 FIVE HUNT CLUB CUP (Hunter chase: £1,145: 3m) (8)

1 154 PADDY HAYTON 8 (D.F.G.) M J McLaughlin 5-11-12
2 8 ASHVALE 340 R Bartlett 8-12-10
3 225 DEEP SPARTACUS 237 W A Stephenson 5-11-12
4 121 NEWLIFE CONNECTION 1350 (D.F.G.) M J McLaughlin 5-11-12
5 045 WESTWARD DRAFT 137 F Jester 5-11-12
6 10 HOBBS' GIRL 288 M S Rafter 5-11-12

7-4 GYMCRACK STARDOM, 4-1 Noodle, 5-1 West With The Wind, 7-4 Charlotte's Emma, 8-1 Juliette, Rapid Slane, 12-1 others

4.50 LEVY BOARD NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (21.34: 2m) (15)

1 0 ALGARI 20 G Richards 5-11-12
2 BROKE THE BANK W Kemp 5-11-12
3 BRUCE HAYTON 20 M J McLaughlin 5-11-12
4 0221 MALENOIR 14 (D.F.G.) M J McLaughlin 5-11-12
5 0221 MALENOIR 14 (D.F.G.) M J McLaughlin 5-11-12
6 0221 MALENOIR 14 (D.F.G.) M J McLaughlin 5-11-12
7 0221 MALENOIR 14 (D.F.G.) M J McLaughlin 5-11-12
8 0221 MALENOIR 14 (D.F.G.) M J McLaughlin 5-11-12

7-4 GYMCRACK STARDOM, 4-1 Noodle, 5-1 West With The Wind, 7-4 Charlotte's Emma, 8-1 Juliette, Rapid Slane, 12-1 others

2.50 LOVE CHANGES EVERYTHING HANDICAP (22.147: 6f) (8)

1 124 FRIENDLY CLAIM 21 (D.F.G.) T Barron 4-10-12
2 030 CORN FUTURES 106 (D.F.G.) J Leach 4-10-12
3 030 CORN FUTURES 106 (D.F.G.) J Leach 4-10-12
4 450 GOODY FOUR SHOES 130 (D) T Tucker 4-10-12
5 0221 SALADAN KNIGHT 7 (D.F.G.) J Chapman 4-10-12
6 0050 STATE GOVERNOR 16 (D) J Chapman 4-10-12

7-4 GYMCRACK STARDOM, 4-1 Noodle, 5-1 West With The Wind, 7-4 Charlotte's Emma, 8-1 Juliette, Rapid Slane, 12-1 others

3.25 SWEET NOTHING'S CLAIMING STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,048: 1m) (5)

1 3-41 BASSIO 7 (D.F.G.) A Allen 4-10-12
2 4-18 EARLY STAR 7 (D.F.G.) T Barron 4-10-12
3 030 CORN FUTURES 106 (D.F.G.) J Leach 4-10-12
4 450 GOODY FOUR SHOES 130 (D) T Tucker 4-10-12
5 0221 SALADAN KNIGHT 7 (D.F.G.) J Chapman 4-10-12
6 0050 STATE GOVERNOR 16 (D) J Chapman 4-10-12

7-4 GYMCRACK STARDOM, 4-1 Noodle, 5-1 West With The Wind, 7-4 Charlotte's Emma, 8-1 Juliette, Rapid Slane, 12-1 others

4.25 SAY IT WITH ROSES HANDICAP (22.324: 7f) (14)

1 358 PESIDANMARCH 20 (D.F.G.) T Barron 4-10-12
2 20-1 FOULISH TOUCH 21 (D.F.G.) M J McLaughlin 5-10-12
3 000 CAROUSELLA 95 (D) C Britton 4-10-12
4 4-18 EARLY STAR 7 (D.F.G.) T Barron 4-10-12
5 030 CORN FUTURES 106 (D.F.G.) J Leach 4-10-12
6 450 GOODY FOUR SHOES 130 (D) T Tucker 4-10-12

7-4 GYMCRACK STARDOM, 4-1 Noodle, 5-1 West With The Wind, 7-4 Charlotte's Emma, 8-1 Juliette, Rapid Slane, 12-1 others

5.00 THATCHER'S CLUB 101 (D.F.G.) M J McLaughlin 5-10-12

5.00 THATCHER'S CLUB 101 (D.F.G.) M J McLaughlin 5-10-12

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John Goodbody reports from Stockholm on crowd control preparations for the European football championship

Police say tickets essential for Sweden ties

ENGLISH and Scottish football supporters will be restricted to about 5,000 tickets apiece for the pool matches of the European championship in Sweden in June, and only 2,500 if their country reaches the semi-finals and final.

The message from the summit meeting here of Swedish, British and Dutch police and officials of governments and football associations was that supporters should not travel without tickets. Up to 20,000 Britons are still expected in Scandinavia.

Police superintendent Lennart Petersson is adamant. "Anyone who has committed a serious football-related offence will be turned back at the border. In addition, supporters will not be allowed to enter stadiums without tickets," he said.

Petersson is secretary of the two Swedish committees which have been set up to prevent the clashes which marred the 1988 championship in West Germany, when nearly 800 people, including 394 English, were arrested.

In September 1989, when England met Sweden here in a World Cup qualifying match which was marred by violence, a group of 500 supporters, without tickets, encamped in front of the stadium.

The police, wrongly believing in a short-term solution, thought it was better to let them into the match rather than to risk further trouble outside.

Petersson said that the Swedes had learnt a lot about policing England followers from that experience and had instituted special training in riot and crowd control for regular officers. Sweden is spending 119 million kronor (about £12 million) on security for the championship.

However, as Craig Brewin, the chairman of the Football Supporters Association, pointed out yesterday, a precedent of admitting ticketless spectators has been set.

"People will remember or be told about 1989," Brewin said. Supporters will not know about this summer's policy, or, if they do, they will



Advance party: British police representatives, Adrian Appleby, left, and Malcolm George, inspect the Rasunda Stadium in Stockholm

believe the Swedes will alter it. The Football Association is urging all supporters to join its travel club, when members are vetted against a blacklist of known hooligans. Club members should be assured of tickets for the

championship, particularly since the FA did a highly commendable job during the World Cup in Italy in securing as many tickets as they could for England followers. Brewin is disappointed with the ticket allocation, but

this is inevitable because the stadiums are quite small. Malmö, where England plays its two opening games, against Yugoslavia and France, holds 27,000. Each group of supporters will get 5,072 tickets. At the

Rasunda Stadium in Stockholm (capacity 28,000), where England will meet Sweden, 5,321 tickets will be available.

Scotland will receive slightly more, because they will be playing their early games in larger grounds.

The police have also concluded that, because long-haul ferry operators will not be taking supporters direct to Sweden, either because of company policy or because many of the summer sailing schedules do not start until June 15, when the tournament will have already begun, many England and Scotland followers will be using the Channel ports.

Potential problems could be in Belgium, The Netherlands, and particularly Denmark, with many Englishmen using Copenhagen as a base and then making the 10-mile ferry crossing to Malmö. Denmark is also cheaper, with a glass of beer costing £2.20 compared to £5 in Sweden.

The National Football Intelligence Unit (NFIU), which has done so much to help control hooliganism in

England, will be on stand-by 24 hours a day during the championship. As potential troublemakers board ships and planes in Britain, the NFIU will be sending pictures of them by photophone to Continental police, so that they can identify them as the supporters disembark.

Malcolm George, secretary of the Association of Chief Police Officers public order sub-committee, said: "After a successful World Cup in policing terms, we are optimistic about Sweden. The domestic arrests this season are about the same as last year [when there was a dramatic drop compared to 1989-90] but we are aware there still remains a few people who are prepared to cause problems."

British ministers, however, seem complacent, apparently believing that the problem has disappeared. Colin Moynihan, the former minister for sport, was sufficiently committed to his job to make his first visit to Italy six months before the World Cup to check arrangements. Robert Atkins, his successor, has yet to go to Sweden.

Leading Austrian woman skier comes out of a slump at the right time

Kronberger tries not to want any more gold

FROM DAVID POWELL
IN MERIBEL

PETRA Kronberger switched on her personal stereo to relax before skiing to the first women's Alpine gold medal of the XVI Winter Olympic Games yesterday. But the headphones she wore at her press conference left pressure ringing in her ears.

Kronberger's third place in the slalom after her victory in the downhill on Wednesday clinched the combined title. Suddenly, this most likeable of sportswomen was being elevated from January flop to February superstar.

Did she think she could win all five gold medals, journalists wanted to know, of the Austrian, aged 22. Through modern techniques of simultaneous translation, the questions can be delivered in one language and the answers heard through headphones in another.

"It reminds me of the world championships, all kinds of forecasts, and look what happened there," Kronberger replied. On that occasion, last year, Kronberger won downhill gold, but fell in the super giant slalom and missed the rest of the championships. "I am not super-human," she said. "I am very reluctant to come up with any forecast. You cannot push a button and say today you will win a gold medal."

She was trying not to think about it. "I have come to realise that if I really want



something it does not work." So, on La Roche de Fer piste before yesterday's slalom, she tuned in to her Walkman. "The music calms me and makes me think of something else."

The death in December, after a car accident, of Alois Kahr, the Austrian technical coach, had weighed heavily on her mind, and was perhaps a reason for her recent poor form.

"Up there I heard Alois as if he was talking to me," Kronberger said, her sequence of 12 races without a top three place put to the sword. "I was thinking of what he would have said to me. It was a shock to lose him. People live on in us. But, if we are depressed, we have to fight harder."

This was Kronberger's first Olympic title. The most won by an Alpine skier at one Games is three. But the downhill tomorrow worries her. "The jumps are dangerous — I do not think it necessary to have them," she said. "They are a problem."

If Kronberger is worried, how must the others feel?



Back on top: Kronberger attacks the combined slalom yesterday

OLYMPIC DETAILS

Alpine skiing
Women's combined (Val d'Isère)
1988 winner: A. Kronberger (Austria)
FINAL RESULT: 1. P. Kronberger (Austria), 1:25.07 (1:25.07, 1:11.80); 2. A. Kronberger (Austria), 1:25.07 (1:25.07, 1:11.80); 3. F. Kronberger (Austria), 1:25.07 (1:25.07, 1:11.80); 4. C. Kronberger (Austria), 1:25.07 (1:25.07, 1:11.80); 5. M. Kronberger (Austria), 1:25.07 (1:25.07, 1:11.80); 6. S. Kronberger (Austria), 1:25.07 (1:25.07, 1:11.80); 7. T. Kronberger (Austria), 1:25.07 (1:25.07, 1:11.80); 8. N. Kronberger (Austria), 1:25.07 (1:25.07, 1:11.80); 9. B. Kronberger (Austria), 1:25.07 (1:25.07, 1:11.80); 10. H. Kronberger (Austria), 1:25.07 (1:25.07, 1:11.80); 11. L. Kronberger (Austria), 1:25.07 (1:25.07, 1:11.80); 12. M. Kronberger (Austria), 1:25.07 (1:25.07, 1:11.80); 13. C. Kronberger (Austria), 1:25.07 (1:25.07, 1:11.80); 14. H. Kronberger (Austria), 1:25.07 (1:25.07, 1:11.80); 15. L. Kronberger (Austria), 1:25.07 (1:25.07, 1:11.80); 16. M. Kronberger (Austria), 1:25.07 (1:25.07, 1:11.80); 17. C. Kronberger (Austria), 1:25.07 (1:25.07, 1:11.80); 18. H. 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MOTORING

How much
longer can
Britain
keep left?



LIFE & TIMES

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 14 1992



VALENTINES

From piggypoo
to puddleduck:
two pages of
unbridled love

Red roses for a smart lady

ALAN WELLER

THE
VALERIE
GROVE
INTERVIEW

The indefatigable
Marilyn Quayle
talks about being
married to
America's
vice-president

Which First Lady, I asked Marilyn Quayle, have you most admired? Thinking of Nancy and Barbara, Pat, Betty, Rosalynn, Lady Bird, Jackie and Mamie... but the Second Lady ignored all contemporary examples. "Abigail Adams," she said.

Now this could be extremely significant. Abigail, who married John Adams, the second president of the United States, in 1764, was a very remarkable matriarch. She had considerable political influence over her husband. She shared official duties with him. She was a preacher's daughter with bold rather than beautiful features, noted for her poise, intelligence and spirit. An independent woman who supported female education and equal rights for blacks. Adams tended to be self-deprecating and a worrier. He depended on Abigail's managerial skills: she ran their farm and saved him from financial ruin. They had five children, one — John Quincy Adams — a future president. Her husband was her equal and her friend. "Their partnership proved as perfect as any recorded in the annals of matrimony," declares her biographer. The Adamses' love letters were famously uninhibited for 18th-century Puritan New Englanders. "You can tell," Mrs Quayle says. "It was a true partnership."

The Quayles do not need to write letters: their White House office suites almost adjoin and they are in constant touch on the inter-office phone. Quayle & Quayle is what they called their law practice when they married, and Quayle & Quayle remains. "We're married, we talk," she says. Why do people find this interdependence odd?

A political wife of this kind gets ritually labelled by mostly male commentators, ambitious, dominating, the power behind, etc. In politics, only the silent spouse (Dennis Thatcher, Norma Major) or the totally supportive one for the peccant (Mmes Parkinson, Clinton, Ashdown) is the acceptable norm. Any other kind may suffer from Glenys Kinnock syndrome.

Mrs Quayle calls it a "collegial" relationship. "When you start out working together on an equal footing as colleagues, as most professional couples do, you continue like that. That was the way our marriage was built from the beginning and to us it's not unusual. Both my parents were doctors, they talked about medical issues together. You need that sounding board back and forth and you respect your spouse's opinion."

"If any man asks me," she says, "are you smarter or brainier than your husband I say, well who's smarter in your marriage? It's such a presumption." At the US ambassador's residence in Regent's Park, in the room with Walter Annenberg's Chinese wallpaper, Mrs Quayle appears to have every natural advantage. She is tall, with good legs, good teeth often on display in the widest of smiles and the luminous complexion of an athletic 42-year-old accustomed to running three miles a day. "I ran in Geneva yesterday," she says, "and I shall run at home in Washington tomorrow." She laughs often — her Secret Service codename is "Springtime" — but tears may dart to her eyes if you harp on the old "goofy" stories about her husband. When the trashing began in 1988, she was painted as an icy, formidable



A woman with every natural advantage: Marilyn Quayle in the US ambassador's residence in Regent's Park. She has none of Nancy Reagan's glazed winsomeness, is no "mommy taking care of her little boy"

woman who had abandoned a brilliant legal career to stage-manage her husband's ascent.

But now there has been a watershed, as she sees it. The American press has begun to rehabilitate the Quayles, notably in a series of articles last month by Bob Woodward and David S Broder in *The Washington Post*, a paper which formerly revelled in bumbling Dan Quayle stories. The writers looked back on her reputation as the smarter Quayle, a manipulator, a perfectionist, dedicated keeper of the Quayle image. They cited examples. A campaign commercial had ended with a freeze frame of Dan Quayle in front of trees.

Mrs Quayle rejected it on the excellent grounds that the branches stuck out of his head like antlers. Another time she scribbled on, and then tore up, a picture of Quayle playing golf because it gave him a paunch.

Would not any wife do the same? she asks. But of such trivial tales, are myths created.

She is compared to Nancy Reagan, yet she has none of that glazed winsomeness; she is not a mommy taking care of her little boy.

So this week, when the Quayles had 24 hours in London, while Dan Quayle sat in a radio van talking to Brian Redhead (and acquitting himself well and good-humouredly, as he had with Peter Snow on *Newsnight*) before seeing the prime minister and Neil Kinnock, Marilyn Quayle was heading east through mean streets to visit a school for the deaf in Chingford, Essex. She always visits such schools on her travels, to answer the children's questions ("Have you met the Queen?") and observe how computers have revolutionised life for deaf children since her own deaf sister, Sally, was at her special school.

The Quayles met and married within ten weeks. "A friend introduced us one Saturday night, and that Monday morning he walked into a meeting I was having on legislative reforms for the Indiana, and we laughed because my job was to rewrite the laws for the attorney general, and his job was to make sure I did it right for the governor. On this crash work, we got to know each other. We just had fun together. Yes, he is very nice looking and I think he gets better looking as he gets older, but I just liked the way he tackled issues. My parents had given me certain guidelines on marriage. They pointed out that some things would make life easier: similar beliefs and background, definitely the same sense of humour, and the same philos-

ophy for raising children. We had an instant rapport."

Marilyn Tucker was one of four sisters and two brothers in a God-fearing Presbyterian family. Her father, a pulmonary disease specialist, still works at 80. Marilyn was to be a hotshot lawyer. She had her first baby induced two weeks early so she could take her law exams. (Two British women who took their Bar finals in the year they had their first babies are Margaret Thatcher and the new DPP, Barbara Mills.) But three children and Quayle's senate campaigns overtook her until the youngest child was seven and she decided to get back to work. "We

knew we'd soon have two children in college and we'd need two incomes." At this point George Bush called and put Dan on his ticket; so Marilyn's career was kiboshed again. For the VP's wife to practise as a lawyer in Washington would be impossible under federal ethics; she could have had her husband's senate seat, but that too seemed fraught with problems.

"It was Catch 22," she says. Instead she has carved a professional niche in social causes that are neither glamorous nor fashionable but personal commitments to her, like the deaf — because of her sister — and breast cancer, because her mother died

from that at 56.

"Everything I'm involved in, I've always been committed to. You can really get a point across, because you've lived it." In 1990 she herself went into hospital with a pre-cancerous cervical condition, which necessitated a hysterectomy. She is now an expert on cancer research and mammography. When Mrs Carter's social secretary was dying of cancer Mrs Quayle spent her last nights in hospital with her. She raises millions for research, organising the Race For the Cure, a sponsored run in Washington. "Of course I run. So does the vice-president."

Silly Quayle jokes were made, inevitably, when she was appointed to the UN council for Natural Disaster Reduction. But at least one can imagine Mrs Quayle visiting disaster-stricken areas such as Bangladesh without squirming. During last year's G7 talks, when all the "wives of" were here at play, she was to be seen on the Thames on an antique fire-fighting barge. Fire-fighting is another of her interests, since the day in her childhood when a propane gas explosion devastated a packed stadium in Indianapolis during an ice show. "It was a true disaster. The city was just not prepared. There were 26 fatalities immediately and hundreds injured. There were simply not enough ambulances or emergency personnel to cope." Her parents were involved at the hospital; her 16-year-old brother drove people on stretchers in his station wagon. "I was 14 and it made a big impression on me."

How exhausting it all sounds, to be a politician's wife and a perfect mom and still anguish over what the press might say. Was it not enough that she coached her children's soccer teams, quilted their Halloween costumes, cajoled them into planting a vegetable garden, never shirked her PTA duties? Her press aide assures me that the Quayle children — Tucker is 17, Benjamin 15, Corinne 12 — are unusually well-behaved, and have dinner with their parents every night at seven. "This woman, she skis, she rides, she roller-skates, she plays tennis, she cuts her own hair."

Just to be truly maddening, she has also co-written a thriller with her sister Nancy. It is called *Embrace the Serpent*, out this spring. I wondered if it would rock Washington (Washington is forever being rocked by some novel) but she said it contains nothing that could have been gleaned from federal government. "It's about the four days after Castro's death, and the jockeying for power worldwide to take over the island," she says. "It could be prescient."

Still she must grit her teeth when asked if she choreographs her husband's public appearances. "Look. He doesn't need any directing. He's fabulous. He doesn't need anyone to tell him

what to do. He's able, and a natural. I used to go to press conferences and then read the paper and wonder if I'd been at the same thing. All those people just looking for things to make him look bumbling. Ignoring all he'd achieved in 12 years in the Senate."

She approves of Chris Patten's view that if a politician parades his family around, he becomes fair game, and to her credit, when a potentially scandal-mongering story once broke that Quayle and some Congress colleagues had shared a weekend cottage with a comely blonde, she made a game and memorable response: "Any-

body who knows Dan Quayle knows he would rather play golf than have sex any day." St Valentine's day postscript: every year on their anniversary, Quayle sends her one red rose for each year of marriage: it will be 20 roses in November, the crucial month when Marilyn Quayle could be a step nearer following in Abigail Adams's tough old footsteps.

Quayle and Quayle: continuing their "collegial" relationship

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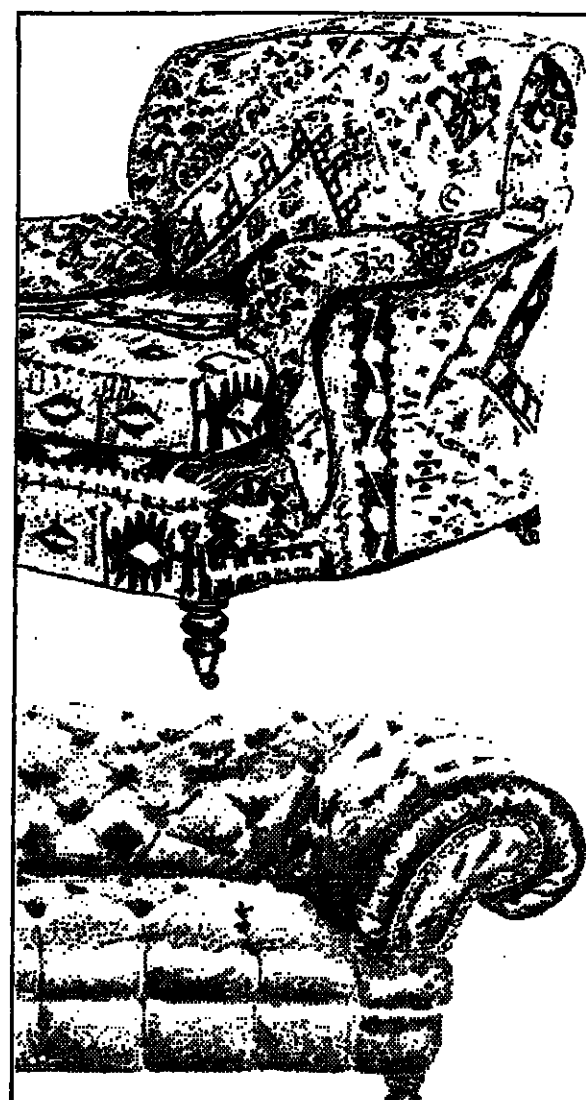
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Quayle and Quayle: continuing their "collegial" relationship

France
ignore
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cricket

Guessing games and cheeky jokes

LONDON GALLERIES

Richard Cork explores the challenging work of Richard Deacon and Hermione Wiltshire: sculpture and photographs

Whenever artists are awarded high accolades early in their careers, the temptation to reiterate a winning formula can prove hard to resist. Market pressures, combined with the critical approval bestowed on previous achievements, often militate against the need to change and develop. The work becomes predictable, and more concerned with promoting an instantly recognisable style than with genuine discovery.

Since Richard Deacon won the Turner Prize in 1987, at the age of only 38, he has done his best to avoid these pitfalls. A flurry of public commissions both here and abroad, including an exuberant sculpture for Warwick University campus, challenged him to handle the grand scale. At the same time, his other art has refused to stand still. Deacon's new exhibition at the Lisson Gallery reminds us of his strengths and it shows him exploring new possibilities with conspicuous vigour, inventiveness and sharp wit.

The least unexpected work on view is a colossal aluminium sculpture, with the terse title *Pipe*. Extending over 15 feet across the floor, it seems sturdy enough to perform an industrial function in a factory or even under the sea. Ribbed and plentifully riveted, like so much of Deacon's earlier work, *Pipe* has a defensive look. But as I moved round the piece, a surprising ability to curve and contort gave its body sinuosity.

The entire sculpture began to resemble a bulky armoured creature, flexing and writhing as it prepared to advance. Deacon, however, stops well short of disclosing too much about *Pipe*'s possible identity. Half animal and half mechanical, it remains impossible to pin down. And the fact that both ends are sealed only adds to the eeriness, suggesting that its tunnel-like interior might harbour some harmful substance. Deacon has long been fascinated by his work's supple ability to generate multiple interpretations. Apparently random or abstract shapes turn out to yield an array of possible meanings, ranging from the technological to the organic, and from the sensual to the sinister. In the lowest room, two undulating sculptures hug the floor. Although made of pale wood, they seem soft and pliable.

Dummy looks almost jelly-like, as though a sea-creature had been unaccountably beached in the basement of a London gallery. But it also resembles an uncompromising piece of low-lying modern furniture, and another sculpture is equally rich in ambiguity. Called

Border, it has irregular sections of welded PVC, giving the work a shining, swollen, grey-blue appearance. The internal divisions evoke the structure of stained glass, however, placing more emphasis on pictorial elements than did the plain, bleached austerity of *Dummy*.

Deacon's preoccupation with the relationship between sculpture and painting seems to be growing apace. Another room in the show is inhabited by three large free-standing frames in aluminium, grouped under the intriguing title *The Interior is Always More Difficult*. Each of them encloses a translucent plastic screen, within which floats a rounded form.

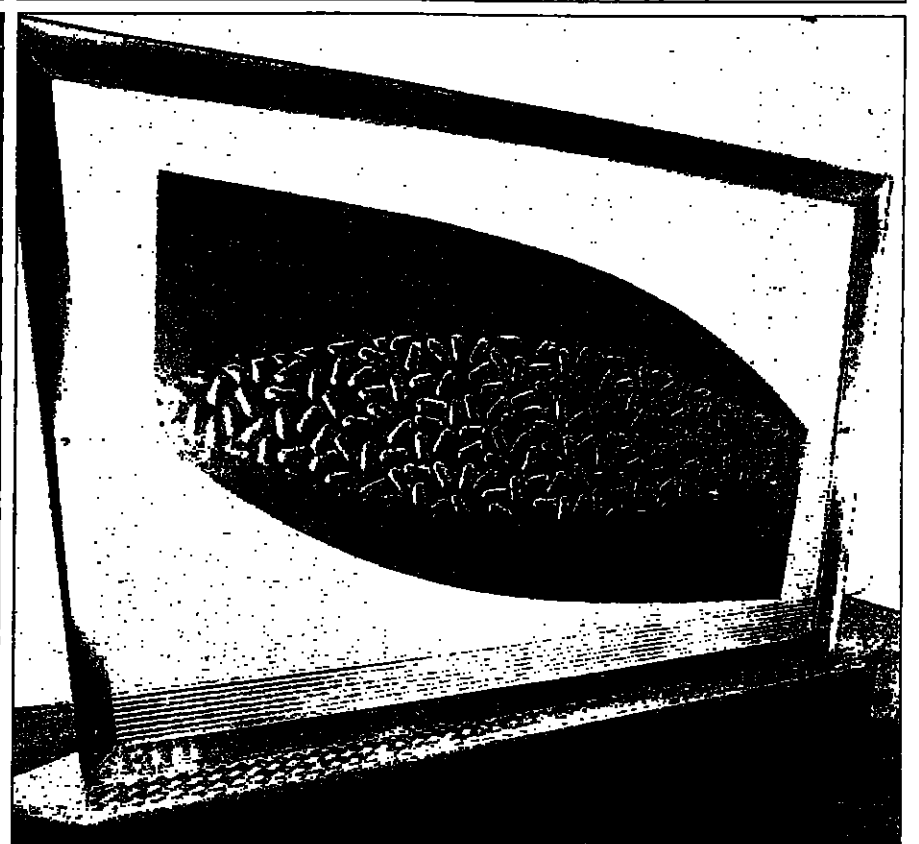
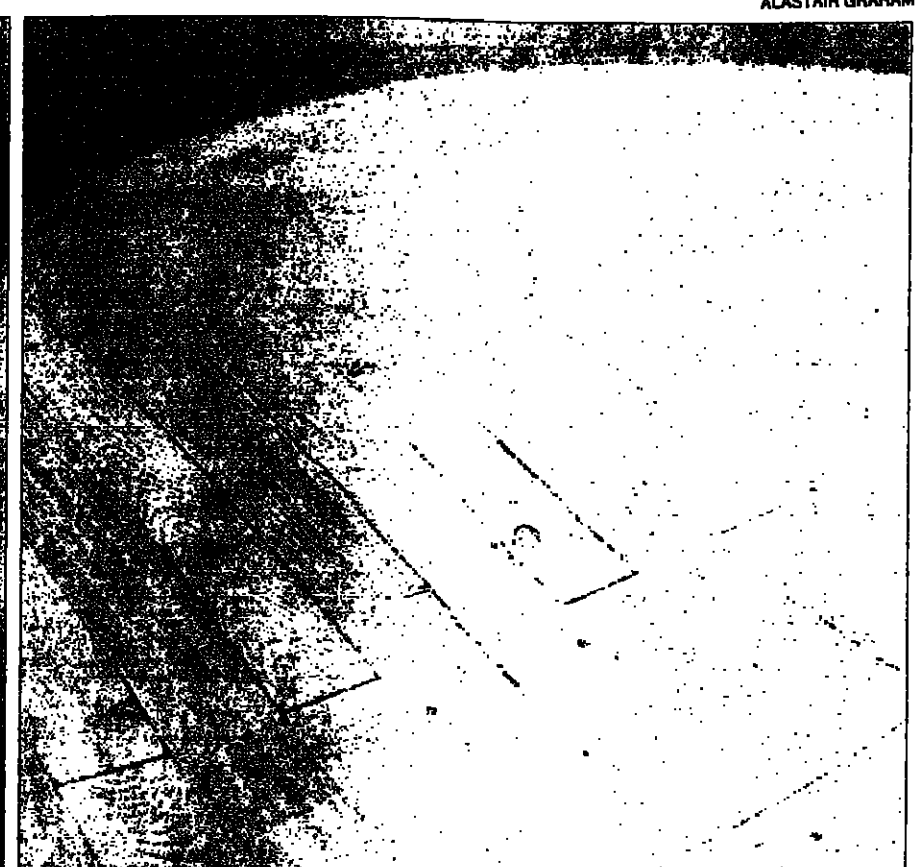
Once again, the shape's apparent abstraction contains references to identifiable objects. One is reminiscent of a strip of pills in foil, while another looks like the patterned bottom of an outsize shoe — a form which helped to inspire one of Deacon's finest early sculptures, *If the Shoe Fits*, from 1981. But unlike that work, a robust construction using corrugated and sheet steel held together with screws, this new "shoe" is flattened and is left hovering strangely in space.

A dash of humour has always enlivened Deacon's art, most overtly in the titles he chooses. The new series of prints which

round off the exhibition are, however, more playful than anything he has previously produced. They are also more figurative, and at first glance I failed to recognise them as Deacon's work at all.

His source was, apparently, a photographic sequence of weirdly misshapen vegetables published in a popular Victorian magazine. Their images of potatoes, carrots and apples, swollen and twisted into bizarre forms, were intended to make the readers smile. Deacon retains some of the comedy, but invites other responses as well. Clownish melancholy coexists with knockabout humour in a print called *a curious potato*, where the vegetable resembles a battered-looking man, wearing a battered hat.

Elsewhere, Deacon depicts a grotesque carrot swaying on a plinth-like block, ready to fall. And the pathos deepens in an image where the potato assumes the form of a figure leaning his severely truncated arm on a stick. Tendrils sprout from his body and wave absurdly in the air, accentuating the aura of decay. The malformations in this time still memories of Otto Dix's war stipules, but the quirkiness of the series as a whole prevents tragedy from predominating. Deacon must have enjoyed



Clockwise from top left: Richard Deacon's wood sculpture *Dummy* and detail; *The Interior is always more difficult* — 1, aluminium and polycarbonate, and detail

himself hugely making these spirited prints, and I would not be surprised to find them nourishing radically new forms in his sculpture.

Hermione Wiltshire, a younger artist whose work fills the rest of the Lisson's capacious new building, also deploys humour. In a sequence of framed photographic works, she juxtaposes erotic imagery with banal, *bijou* or hallucinatory objects. They undercut whatever titillating or pornographic potential the pictures may possess.

A razzle-dazzle of stockings leg dominates *Denier*, but it is curiously sliced off at the thigh and accompanied by a kitsch china

lion cub. In an equally deflating mood, Wiltshire photographs a white plaster penis dangling in space with no discernible support. Breast shapes similar to the egg in the photograph appear on a floor-based, multi-tiered work called *Smug*. But the lace patterns covering their surfaces ensure that they remain elusive, and Wiltshire flattens them out on the side of each tier. And although she reveals a little more as the sculpture ascends, it never becomes enough for a confident identification.

As I crouched down and peered at *Smug*, struggling to decide what exactly these forms might represent, I realised that Wiltshire had turned me into an avid investigator. The more her sculpture evades recognition, the more intrigued and determined the viewer becomes.

Cataract, a circular wall-work framed in pale, grained wood, contains a coloured photograph of a soft, gleaming substance. Resembling a close-up of sun-bronzed human flesh, the image nevertheless refuses to disclose itself fully. Positioned halfway up the wall, *Cataract* encourages keyhole inspection. But Wiltshire rebuffs even as she entices, and makes sure that convex glass covered with grey patterning comes between the observer and the photograph.

The glass is clearer in her third sculpture, a tondo-shaped work that looks from a distance as functional as a doorbell or wall-light. Again, however, the photographic image at the centre retains its mystery intact. Wiltshire allows us to see a dark, glistening orifice there, and appreciate its potential desirability. But its precise nature escapes classification as nimbly as Deacon's sculpture, and makes even the most chaste gallery-goer aware of the fragile border-line separating the viewer from the voyeur.

Richard Deacon and Hermione Wiltshire at the Lisson Gallery, 67 Lisson St, NW1 (071-724 2739) until March 14.

Robert Anderson, recently installed as director of the British Museum, talks to Simon Tait

New broom in Bloomsbury

A few days into Robert Anderson's appointment as director of the British Museum, his capacious office still bears no outward evidence of his occupation. On the bookcase behind him stands a classic example of Victorian public sculpture: the Alfred Stevens lion which once adorned the museum's railings in large numbers. On the mantelpiece is a colourful pottery horse, a memento of a Russian trip by his predecessor, Sir David Wilson.

"I'm on a strict programme of seeing everyone, each department. There isn't much time for anything else," Anderson says. To many, the new regime will seem comfortably like business as usual. Wilson was a forthright traditionalist who was appalled at the innovations of the Natural History Museum, once a branch of the BM. He wanted no hands-on gimmicks, no fancy promotions whose effectiveness was not always measurable, and above all, no admission charges.

Anderson appears to have the same traditional instincts, though less demonstrably so. He does not believe in directors shaping museums in their own likeness, as Sir Roy Strong perhaps tried to do at the V&A. He believes in continuity. "David has left me an organisation which is vigorous and has a clear sense of direction, a very serious organisation which is in the traditional mould. He weathered certain storms to keep that aspect going."

Wilson and his supporters have been accused of intellectual snobbery, in being more concerned with pleasing scholars than of appealing to ordinary museum visitors. "I don't accept that," Anderson says. "It suggests that we are excluding someone. There is no feeling of exclusion here. But we make difficulties when we say, for instance, that science is simple to understand. That's misleading. Science is bloody difficult."

The BM is not about to move in on the Science Museum, though Anderson did gain his doctorate in physical chemistry. He worked at the Science Museum for ten years before becoming director of the Royal Scottish Museum. There he undertook the amalgamation which resulted in the National Museums of Scotland.

Anderson wants the BM to be more accessible, not less. His gaze kept drifting, disconcertingly for an interviewer, to the window. "It's endlessly fascinating watching people come in. Look, there's a school group. I wonder what they're going to find..."

He may be new to the BM but Anderson, at 47, is already one of the longest serving members of the national museums and galleries directors' conference, and in seniority he outranks all the others except John Hayes at the National Portrait Gallery, Alan Borg at the Imperial War Museum and Neil Cossons at the Science Museum.



Undaunted by the scale of his task: Robert Anderson in one of the Egyptian galleries of the British Museum

derson's job), Cossons and Neil Chalmers of the Natural History Museum, have ranged against such traditionalists as Neil MacGregor at the National Gallery and Nicholas Serota at the Tate. Anderson is firmly in the latter camp. National museums are research institutions, and they must perform those functions beside providing less specialist education. To illustrate the BM's diverse

functions, he delved into a cupboard, producing first a beautifully bound 1990 catalogue — *Cuneiform Texts from Babylonian Tablets in the British Museum: Part 58* — and then a child's guide to the museum, which is probably in a million small pairs of sticky hands a year.

"It must be enormously confusing to people making their first visit here and trying to make sense of the collec-

tions; they can't possibly understand the scope of what we have here," Anderson said, glancing again, paternally, at the steady stream of visitors. "I want to find a way of relating objects with each other for them."

The museum has a staff of 1,300 to care for not only millions of objects but up to 26,000 visitors a day. The fact that visitor numbers have not declined is a testament to the traditional no-nonsense style the British Museum possesses. "I believe frequent short visits are a wonderful way of learning from museums, and last year we broke the five million visitor mark so we must be doing something right."

Before him is perhaps the most testing time for the British Museum, as it seeks to fill the impending gap left by the departure of the British Library from Bloomsbury. That represents an evacuation of 40 per cent of the site, and will cost the BM £80 million to refurbish and re-stock the vacated areas. He confirms that the round Reading Room at the heart of the museum will remain a reading room after the British Library's departure, and he wants to ensure that the best-looking rooms are open to the public, not storage or offices.

Anderson is uneasy, although not yet distrustful, about the government's attitude. The museum will receive a £32 million grant next year: £20 million for revenue (80 per cent goes on wages), and £10.5 million for building maintenance, which takes no account of preparations for the British Library departure. There is still only £1.4 million for purchases, as for the past eight years.

On one side was the

TELEVISION REVIEW

Orders go astray

As the nun said to the schoolgirl, in last night's episode of the unintentionally hilarious Australian drama series *Brides of Christ* (Channel 4): "You don't really believe that standing on your head during intercourse increases the risk of pregnancy, do you?"

She didn't believe it, of course, she was just a sarky adolescent, rebelling mildly in a convent school. But as all devotees of *Neighbours* and *Prisoner: Cell Block H* know, Australian television never shrinks from making a lurid melodrama out of a delicate psychological crisis.

Brides of Christ certainly has a compelling tackiness. Tyrant clerics tend to crash into the rhododendrons to search out copulating pupils. It does, however, convey one essential religious truth: the Church rarely looks sillier than when trying to repress sexuality.

The rebel schoolgirl crept back into the school dorm in the early hours, after a bruising rite of passage with a local lad. She needed understanding, instead, the nuns gave her such practical tips as: "The Virgin Mary, by her example, showed us how to keep our self-respect." Eventually they expelled her.

A ridiculous caricature of clerical intolerance? Another programme this week — a Channel 4 documentary on Monday called *Priests of Passion* — suggested not David Rice, a former Catholic priest who quit for love of a woman, went round the world in search of others in a similar plight: a quarter of all priests, according to him. The result was a touching and illuminating catalogue of incomprehension and pain.

On the other side was the unyielding Vatican line on celibacy. One Brazilian archbishop gave a crisp summary: "We can have no spiritual benefit from disobedience." On the other side were the ex-priests who see no incompatibility between their sense of vocation — obviously still burning fiercely — and their marriages. One German ex-priest said: "I have not found compassion, mercy or understanding in the Church. If the first Pope was married, why not myself?" He was referring to St Peter.

An American professor, himself an ex-priest, diagnosed the malaise. "The Church is frightened of women. You are dealing here with neurosis, fear and insecurity."

The same implicit message came from last Sunday's *Everyman* (BBC 1), though it dealt with the Church of England, and more specifically with the monumental task facing the aptly-named David Hope, who is the new Bishop of London. Ostensibly, he takes up his post in a "Decade of Evangelism", when the dear old C of E is supposed to shake off its sloth and do some honest missionary work.

In practice, he finds a diocese of priests apparently obsessed with themselves: their homosexuality or their femininity, or their abhorrence of one or both of these, or their petty parochial squabbles, fought in a hall of verbal cattiness that would be tolerated in few other workplaces. The tone of *Everyman* was, as usual, dispassionate and cool; the matter-of-fact picture it painted was the more disturbing for that.

RICHARD MORRISON

GALLERIES CHOICE

● **TURNER — THE FIFTH DECADE:** The Clore Gallery's survey of Turner's career in temporary exhibitions is criss-crossing the ground, working sometimes by theme, sometimes by period. The period covered by this latest is 1830-40, during which years Turner was at the height of his powers and fame. The drawings and watercolours included here show much technical experiment, the completion of some of the previous decade's major projects, such as the *Picturesque Views in England and Wales*, the beginnings of the *Race of France* series, and his astonishing coverage of the Houses of Parliament fire in 1834.

Tate Gallery, Millbank, SW1 (071-821 1313) Mon-Sat 10am-5.30pm, Sun 2-5.30pm, until May 10.

● **MICHAEL ROTHENSTEIN:** With the major show of his boxes at the Royal Academy, this is clearly Rothenstein's moment. In addition to Peter Nahum's show of prints of the Seventies, there are now two other shows of his work in town. The Redfern Gallery takes the story back a further decade with prints from the Sixties, many of them more geometrical than what followed, and Angela Flowers brings it right up to date with brand-new paintings and prints, using all kinds of techniques and even returning to his all-time favourite image, the rooster.

Redfern Gallery, 20 Cork Street, W1 (071-734 1732) Mon-Fri 10am-5pm, Sat 10am-12.30pm, until March 12.

Flowers East, 199-205 Richmond Road, E8 (081-985 3333) Tues-Sun 10am-6pm, until March 15.

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

Putting a village to the torch

A quiet Hampshire hamlet is living in fear as, one by one, its homes go up in flames. Who is burning down Pitt?

Jon Stock reports

Last Thursday evening, Neil and Gillian Mitchell settled down in front of the television. Two of their young children were asleep upstairs, the third, a three-month-old baby, was in the sitting room with her parents. Suddenly, Mrs Mitchell heard a noise outside.

"I thought it was a crash on the road," she says. "There had been one the week before. But when I got to the window, I could smell that something was on fire. I pulled the curtains back and saw the flames. Two motorists had stopped and were hammering on the window."

For the Mitchells, the sight of flames licking around the window panes of their 16th-century thatched cottage was a cause for alarm rather than surprise. It was not the first time the Mitchells had smelt burning in the night. For more than four years, the Hampshire hamlet of Pitt, two miles south of Winchester, has been terrorised by an outbreak of apparently deliberate fires.

A computer search carried out this week by Hampshire Fire Brigade has revealed for the first time the exact extent of the problem. There have been 11 fires in Pitt since 1988, seven of which have been officially classified by investigators as deliberate.

"That is a horrifying statistic," says Malcolm Waterman, Brigade Fire Investigation Officer for Hampshire. "One wouldn't expect this kind of activity in such a small area. It is quite unprecedented."

The Mitchells first experienced the Pitt peril on April 20 last year, two days after they moved into Wayside Cottage. They were in the living room at about 11pm when a fire broke out next door.

"The first thing that we knew about it was that the lights went out," Mrs Mitchell says. "My husband thought the trip switch had gone, but it hadn't. The neighbour's roof, which joined ours, was alight."

The family spent the night with friends, and returned the next morning to find their neighbour's porch burnt out, and a huge triangular gash in the roof. Fortunately, their own house was untouched.

Since then, neither of the Mitchells has slept well. Mr Mitchell, a chartered quantity surveyor, is not prepared to leave his family alone



A part of history up in smoke: the scene last April as the thatched roof of Oddicombe Cottages burns for a second time while Hampshire firemen tackle the blaze

for long and has recently had to jettison a lucrative overseas posting. Prices for thatched houses in Pitt have dropped and selling the house would be difficult. In less than a year, their dream home has turned into a nightmare.

The police maintain that the team of ten detectives from Winchester CID assigned to the case last Friday is keeping an open mind about the fires, but privately they suspect that they are dealing with one person. The range of targets shows no obvious pattern, although several families and properties appear to have been singled out for special treatment.

What little evidence there is concerning the firebug suggests

that it is someone with local knowledge. The inevitable rumours and theories are causing irreparable damage to the community. Pitt is one of those English middle-class hamlets where everyone keeps to themselves, preferring to meet each other once or twice a year at awkward drinks parties. Populated by architects, surveyors, retired bank managers and doctors, Pitt has no obvious congregating point like a pub or shop. Most home-owners have invested in thousands of pounds worth of security lights and alarms, which has done nothing to improve the atmosphere.

"Pitt has never been a very community spirited village," Mrs

Mitchell says. "People are now looking at each other suspiciously. These fires are not helping to bring anyone together."

There have been no casualties so far. The arsonist has operated at times (usually between nine and midnight) when someone is likely to see the fire, and, until the Mitchells, the houses have been empty. James and Jacqueline Davey, the Mitchells' neighbours, sold their house, Oddicombe Cottages, two weeks before it caught fire.

Mike Burge first began to wonder whether he was the victim of a grudge at the beginning of 1988.

He and his brother David farm more than 600 acres of land around Winchester, including Pitt. Just before midnight on January 15, 1988, a motorist alerted Mr Burge and his wife Geraldine to a barn fire on their farm at the top of Esmill Lane, which runs through the middle of Pitt. Earlier that day, another fire had destroyed a barn three miles away on a tenant farm also run by Mr Burge.

"We weren't suspicious about the first fire," Mrs Burge says, "but when it came over this side, we weren't quite sure whether we could call it coincidence."

The Burge family has lost seven barns in Pitt and the surrounding

area because of fire, at a cost of more than £70,000. Although the fire brigade believes one was the result of a lightning strike, the rest have been put down to arson (only two were actually in Pitt itself). The police began to suspect a personal vendetta when other, equally accessible barns in the area were not being attacked.

"After we lost seven barns, we began to think that somebody was after us," Mrs Burge says. "But Mike is the nicest guy you could ever wish to meet. We've sat down for hours and thought about this, but we're absolutely puzzled."

The vendetta theory fell through in August 1989, when a fire partially destroyed Oddicombe

Cottages. The Burge family had no connection with the house or the Daveys. At the time, arson was dismissed by fire officers, who attributed the blaze to "smouldering materials".

However, in March 1990, Swallow's Roost, another of Pitt's thatched cottages, was destroyed by fire. Although the fire brigade concluded that the fire was started by an electrical wiring fault, according to the occupant, thatchers rebuilding the house last year found evidence that someone had tried to set fire to the roof in four different places.

In April 1991, there were two more fires in quick succession. On April 10, architects David and Theresa Steele were out to supper with friends. They returned home to find the road clogged with fire engines. Their historic house, The White Cottage, was destroyed, and they were forced to live in lodgings. They have now moved away from the area.

Ten days later, Oddicombe Cottages had its roof burnt off for the second time. Locals were left bewildered and frightened. Today the atmosphere is tense in Pitt. Residents are determined to beat the arsonist, and are naturally wary of anyone passing through. Number plates are noted, strange faces remembered.

There are five thatched cottages in the hamlet altogether, four of which have been burnt. Dr Douglas Boyle and his wife, Peggy, live in Cromwell Cottage, where Oliver Cromwell is reputed to have stayed. It is the only thatched house to have escaped attack. Dr Boyle is taking no risks and has worked out various escape routes should the arsonist strike and not be detected by the elaborate security measures now protecting the house.

He told the local newspaper, the *Southern Evening Echo*: "From the bedroom I can get on to the flat roof and jump down. If we are in the drawing room or at the front, I would have a bit of a job."

Pleasure seems to be the most plausible, if perverse, motive behind the extraordinary series of attacks. It is quite conceivable that after each incident, the arsonist is sitting on a hill-top somewhere, admiring his handiwork. According to Mr Waterman, the case shows the classic signs of pyromania.

"Without getting too carried away with Freudian theories, there are certain people out there, usually male, who derive intense sexual pleasure from watching fires and flashing blue lights," he says. "This particular person seems to get a kick out of seeing thatch go up. He likes big bonfires."

As night falls this evening, a small group of frightened residents will be checking their security, watching their neighbours and, possibly, wishing they had never bought a thatched cottage in Pitt.

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Ransack the attic and bring out the valuables for your own Antiques Roadshow

When Sotheby's comes to call

The invitation from Sotheby's fell out of the local freeshirt. Its experts would be in south-west London this week if we wanted to discuss a possible visit for auction valuations of pictures, furniture, jewellery and other works of art, would we like to call?

We would and did, along with 100 other south Londoners that day. It was too good a chance to miss: the BBC programme *Antiques Roadshow* boasts queues of thousands; here was an offer for our own show in our own home.

The cognoscenti have always called auction houses for personal visits. The auction houses themselves occasionally publish invitations to the public in the counties, but the capital has been largely left until now to tote its possessions into central London for valuation. Phillips once issued invitations in Chelsea but, Simon Taylor of Sotheby's says, "This is the first open invitation."

Sotheby's knows that most callers will not be genuine vendors. Like me, they will be motivated by the blend of curiosity and avarice on which the *Antiques Roadshow* has capitalised. The recession may have prompted people to consider selling for the first time but, Sotheby's says, they are offered by those holding on to their valuables until the market recovers.

Sotheby's invitation is shortly to be extended to all Londoners, who will benefit from the whole panoply of experts available at its headquarters. The auction house confirms estimates in writing: if someone wants to sell through Sotheby's it charges 10 per cent on items which fetch more than £1,000, and

15 per cent on items which fetch under £1,000.

Simply to telephone is, however, not enough. "If someone just wants us to view a cup and saucer," Mr Taylor says, "we might ask them to send in a photograph first. But if it's a collection, or a single category of items, we would send the relevant expert. Otherwise, we send a generalist."

Most callers will be motivated by curiosity and avarice

Faced with our range of china, furniture and bric-a-brac, Sotheby's sent Robert Miller, a generalist. Last Sunday, the *Antiques Roadshow* priced a settee at £18,000. The owner had purchased and restored it for under £500. We, too, have a settee. On Monday morning, my hopes were high.

"We disappoint more often than we thrill," Mr Miller said, ignoring the sofa. He liked our cast-iron tea caddy — "Early Coalbrookdale, pity about the condition," — and the long-case clock — "There are a lot of them, but the sun and moon dial are rather lovely. Oak case, of course, mahogany sells better: £1,500 to £2,000." He called back to base to confirm his estimate of a pocket globe given to my husband by a friend of Wilfred Owen: £800. Any hopes dashed by his valuations were offset by his interest and the history he gave on each item.

There was nothing in our home to register on Mr Miller's personal Richter scale, but he has had an earthquake or two in his career. Calling on a two-up,

two-down in Birkenhead a few years ago to view some oriental ceramics, he spotted a Chinese vase. The owner's father had been a merchant seaman in the Far East, "buying this and that off the quayside". Mr Miller specialises in silver and furniture; he had to go back to base for advice on the vase. "It was late Ming Mai Pei. Fetched over £200,000, and I've dined out on the story ever since."

Mr Miller's next appointment was at St Catherine's convent, run by the Sisters of Mercy in Twickenham. Sister Emanuel was welcoming but diffident. "I don't think we're anything valuable, we're just curious," she said the order was giving up the school in order to return to caring for the poor. "We'll be moving to smaller houses and these things may all go."

Mr Miller valued an elaborate mahogany sideboard at £1,500. "Oh," said Sister Emanuel, "we've been offered more than that." She was intrigued rather than disappointed. A passing dealer had said he would give her £2,000, she explained. A wintry smile crossed Mr Miller's face. He would never cast aspersions on someone he had not met. On the other hand, it was not unknown for sharp practitioners to offer a good price on a big piece and induce owners to part with smaller, more valuable items as makeweights.

Sister Emanuel proffered some Japanese vases, but Mr Miller swooped on a couple of plant holders. To my eye, uninspiring: to Mr Miller, Doulton stoneware jardinières and up to £1,000 the pair. "And if you were thinking of selling the art nouveau fire kerb and tongs, they might make £400."



Robert Miller of Sotheby's casts a practised eye

A number of nuns had asked Sister Emanuel to put forward personal items for a valuation. "Now this a Sister, picked up at a summer fete, I think." Then she'll be pleased," Mr Miller said, turning the glass bust of a woman in his hand. "Baccarat, about £150." The jackpot was up in Sister Emanuel's small study in the eaves. "I bet it's signed," Mr Miller

said, addressing a mahogany bookcase and pulling out the middle drawer. "Yes, here: James Winer & Sons, Wardour Street. A lovely piece. Say £3,000 to £5,000."

It was in the best traditions of the *Antiques Roadshow*. "I think I'll sit down," Sister Emanuel said.

JAY ANDREWS
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Hail to the prune

Dried up, wrinkled and dull? Don't believe it

REGULAR as clockwork, the mighty prune steps forward once a year for its brief moment in the limelight. All the year round it works wonders behind the scenes: National Prune Week, which begins on Monday, gives the nation its chance to say thank you.

This will be Britain's third National Prune Week, in case you had not noticed. The California Prune Board must be satisfied with the impact of the soft sell in previous years, for it will once again be bombarding the grateful public with recipes and "romantic events and mascots", and urging us to take part in prune-inspired gymnasium workouts.

How much romance can they impart to a desiccated plum? The publicity strenuously invokes a link with St Valentine's day, and claims: "The Victorians were probably the first to find romance in prunes when they were eaten as aphrodisiacs."

When pressed, the promoters prove unable to provide chapter and verse for this assertion. Famous as it is for making things happen, the prune is not generally credited with a tendency to make things of that kind happen.

The wrinkled drupe makes its most notable appearance in Victorian literature in *Little Dorrit*, where "grapes and prisms" are recommended as words apt to prompt "angelic elation". But Dickens gave no hint that he would expect it to fan the fires of young love. In 1871, one Thomas Tarwater wrote about "stewed prunes and other diet of a loosening kind". But there is no reason to suppose that he meant that they loosened the moral fibre.

More likely, it was not the Victorians who were first to find romance in prunes, but the California Prune Board. Amorous readers might be better advised to stick to oysters or yodelnbe bark.

A grateful public will be bombarded with prune recipes and 'romantic events and mascots'

Exports of California prunes to Britain (it would be

unfair to mention that other countries also export dried plums, as they make no contribution to the costs of the promotion) rose 30 per cent last year — as clear an index of the effects of recession as one could ask for.

"I don't think the English know what prunes are," says Alastair Little, a television chef who has a restaurant in Fifth Street, Soho, and who has been commissioned by the board to "add a touch of culinary romance" to the theme.

"The fruit has always had a good image on the Continent," he says. "It is only here that prunes and custard and boiled cabbage have gained that dismal image which epitomises all our memories of school meals. You can do wonderful things using prunes with rich meat — as a garnish to pork or goose, for instance. If you want a de luxe effect, you can stone them and stuff them with foie gras: perfectly delicious!"

Memories of school meals are crystallised in Nigel Molesworth's scurrilous reminiscences of Class 2B at St Custard's, as recorded by Geoffrey Willans and Ronald Seal.

Everybody knows all there is to know about prunes," declares Molesworth, darkly contradicting Mr Little, at the outset of his account of the Revolt of the Prunes, in which a tribe of savage prunes who lived in a black mass in the Skook pantry rise in an violent rebellion against their devourers, and almost succeed in taking over the school. Molesworth is not participating in National Prune Week.

The Prunefest would turn seriously sour if the promotion happened to coincide with a National Custard Day or a Save Our School Meals Week. Surprisingly, there is

no formal framework for preventing such clashes. Awareness weeks, as they are known in the trade, are numerous. There will be no just £2 weeks in 1992, but at least 80, according to Robert Barclay, of Profile, a company which has gathered a database of thousands of events, to help subscribers avoid unwelcome linkages.

A dazzling variety of organisations now carve out slices of the calendar in the competition to catch the public eye. The coming year will bring round Million Tree Week, Breast Feeding Week, Coastline Week, No Smacking Week, Elephant Week, National Concom Week, Veggie Pledge Week, and a host of others.

Months, years and even decades are all treated as fair game. There will be as many days in 1992 as there will be weeks, ranging from Pancake Day to National Kevin Day. National Motivation Day, which ran for five years until 1991, is rather poignantly being discontinued this year, its promoters apparently having given up hope of ever motivating the British.

The trend has grown up unnoticed and uncontrolled, and the case for regulation deserves more attention. At the very least, it is high time that the issues were highlighted by a National Awareness Week Awareness Week.

GEORGE HILL

Scourge of the heart

Millions of people carry the herpes virus but it can still cause unnecessary feelings of guilt and anxiety. Alice Thomson reports

Rachel has a secure relationship, a house, a career and herpes. A law student at London University, she contracted the disease two years ago in her first term at university. "My boyfriend caught it from a one-night stand but when he told me he had given me genital herpes he didn't care," she says. "I was horrified. My father is a GP and was understanding but my mother hated it. She doesn't believe in sex before marriage and this confirmed that her eldest daughter was sexually active. Then I found out herpes is for ever. I was only 18 and I thought no one would ever want to go out with me again. I became very lonely and depressed."

Now Rachel (she does not wish to give her surname) can forget about the virus unless she has a new attack. "During an attack I am irritable, I feel dizzy and I have painful sores but that only happens every couple of months," she says. Her present boyfriend is very understanding but she tells her friends and would never admit to an employer that she had the disease.

Learning to live with genital herpes can be a traumatic experience. Rachel had the help of the Herpes Association (HA) but many of the 20,000 people who are diagnosed as herpes sufferers each year are too embarrassed to seek help. In America there are herpes self-help groups and dating agencies in most states.

HA is the only organisation in Britain specifically set up to help sufferers come to terms with the disease. Sponsored by the health department and the London boroughs grants scheme, it holds counselling sessions, social events

and workshops. There are 1,000 regular members, many of whom assist with a herpes helpline and a quarterly magazine, *Sphere*, which tries to replace some of the myths about the virus with facts.

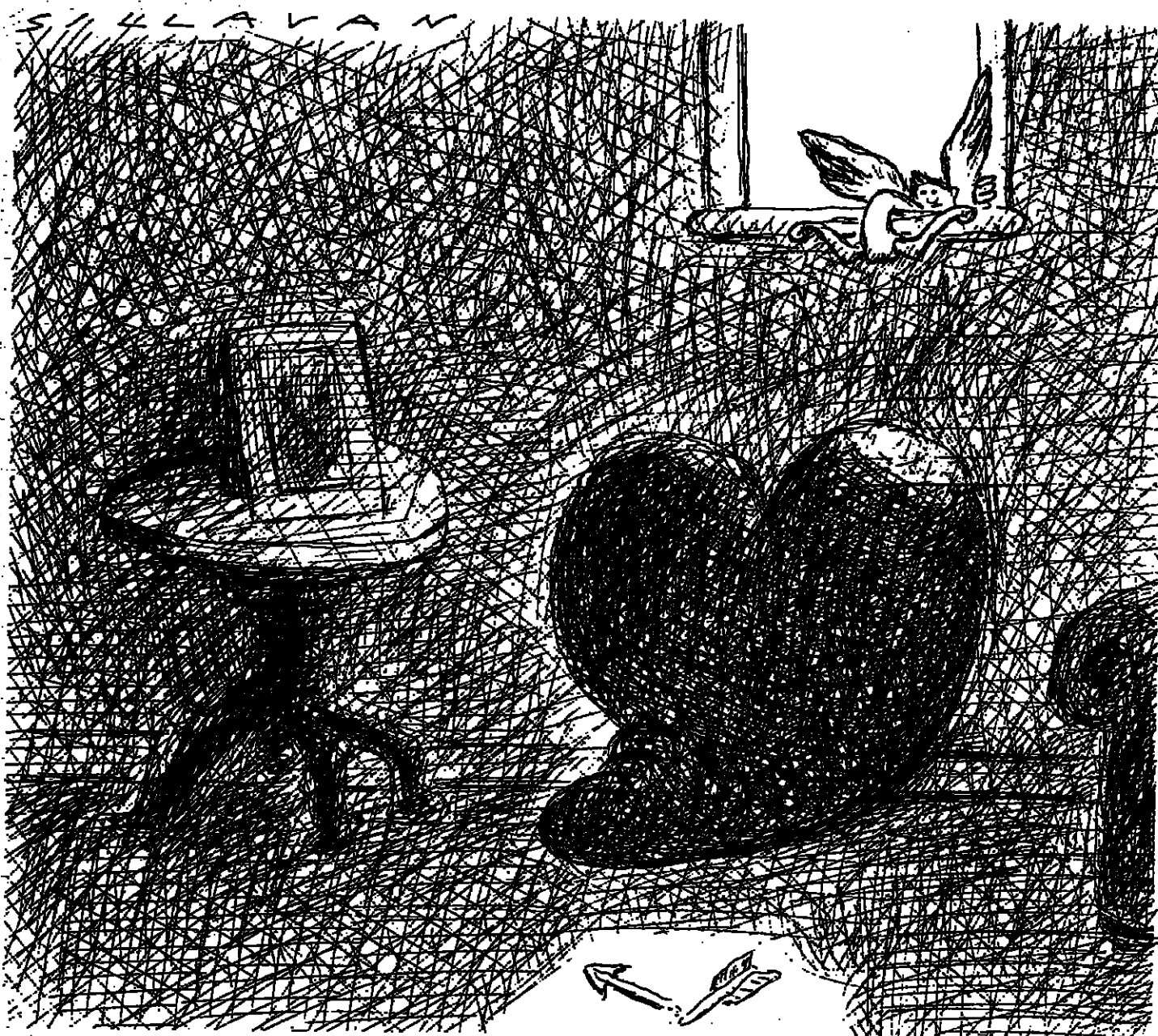
The organisation was set up ten years ago when herpes awareness was at its peak. Then came Aids to topple it from its perch and, although the figures for herpes sufferers have remained static, it is largely a forgotten disease.

Michael Wolfe of HA says: "There is still a lot of misunderstanding. People insist on seeing it as a sexual scourge visited on the promiscuous, although most sufferers are just sexually active and catch herpes through no fault of their own. The British are just so prudish."

It is acceptable to talk about Aids at a dinner party but mention herpes, syphilis or thrush and people start choking on their pudding. Genital and oral herpes (herpes simplex) are both part of a widespread virus family. Kissing is by far the most common source of oral herpes (cold sores); the most common cause of genital herpes is intercourse with someone who has an active genital sore or oral sex with someone who has an oral sore.

The stigma attached to genital herpes is often a greater source of distress to the sufferer than the virus itself. When genital herpes starts, sufferers often feel flu-like symptoms; blisters develop on the genitals and form painful sores. The virus stays for life but after initial attacks it usually subsides into an easily managed skin condition, and recurrences become less frequent or even stop. When it is dormant you are not infectious and it might as well not be there.

'I had been faithful throughout my marriage but my wife immediately accused me of infidelity'



"Survey after survey has shown up to 90 per cent of adults carry the virus," Mr Wolfe says. "But because the majority of carriers have the facial infection, are symptom-free or have acquired the antibodies naturally, it is the unlucky minority with genital symptoms who shoulder the stigma."

The people interviewed here were in steady relationships when they contracted herpes but they would not give their surnames, still believing they will be condemned for having caught the virus.

Peter, 36, a secondary school teacher, first suffered a genital herpes outbreak after three years of marriage. "I had been faithful throughout my marriage but my wife immediately accused me of infidelity. My GP was oblivious to the effect that herpes was having on my personal life and because I was so ashamed, I didn't consider counselling," he says. Although Peter's attacks were mild, the stigma he felt eventually caused his marriage to break down.

The association was able to remove Peter's feelings of guilt. "We tell sufferers that there are many ways of contracting herpes without being unfaithful," Mr Wolfe says. "The source of genital herpes may be a cold sore on a partner's mouth; the virus can be transmitted during oral sex. Alternatively it is possible that your partner has the virus but shows no clear symptoms."

The lack of a cure is another cause of concern. New drugs are constantly on trial in genito-urinary clinics around the country but so far nothing has proved as safe and effective as acyclovir, the anti-viral drug which has been used in conjunction with AZT to aid HIV-positive patients. Used regularly, this acts as a prophylactic and can shorten the duration of an outbreak of herpes but not eradicate it.

The organisation shows sufferers other methods of minimising attacks. "Outbreaks are often

caused by stress, over-work, negative outlook or rich food," Mr Wolfe says. "People get depressed and lonely. This lowers their immune system and makes a recurrence more likely. We try to break the vicious circle using counselling, hypnotherapy and sometimes homoeopathy."

Talking with other sufferers also alleviates worries. HA organises parties, pub meetings, discos and holidays. Sufferers often find new partners from the social events. Richard, aged 42, is a chef and has had herpes for 20 years; his partner, Gail, a secretary, is also a sufferer. They met at one of the HA counselling sessions. "There is no guilt involved and no risk to Gail. When I first caught herpes no one had heard of it. I still haven't told any of my friends but I discuss all my problems freely with others in the association," he says.

Gail, aged 33, agrees: "Since meeting Richard, I have become less worried and the attacks aren't as severe. I wanted to commit suicide when I caught herpes.

Now I have met other sufferers I no longer feel abnormal."

Once sufferers have come to terms with the virus, they soon realise that they are not condemned to celibacy. HA holds courses to explain how to broach the subject with prospective partners, to avoid sexual contact when they have a recurrence and how to practise safe sex.

June, 32, can now see a positive side to the disease. "I caught herpes in Australia where they are very laid back about it. But when I came back to Britain I was made to feel dirty. The first man I told couldn't have run further. It was only by going to the HA that I gained the confidence to go out again."

"I have met some of my closest friends through the support group. I only wish people were more educated. I would like to tell my children about herpes without their recoiling in horror."

Herpes Association, 41 North Road, London N7 9DP. Helpline: 071-609 9061

HERPES FACTS

- The herpes virus has been around for over 2,000 years and was first given the name herpes from *herpein*, meaning to creep, by Hippocrates.

- There was such a terrible epidemic of cold sores in ancient Rome that the emperor Tiberius banned kissing. In 18th-century France herpes was termed a vocational disease of prostitutes.

- In the 1940s herpes was found to be a virus.

- In the late 1960s two types of herpes were isolated. Type one, the most common, prefers the lips and after the first attack is often milder. Type two favours the genitals and can be more painful and persistent.

- Ninety per cent of the population carries one type of the virus by old age, usually type one. When dormant the virus lies under the skin or travels up the nerve root to the sacral ganglia or trigeminal ganglia.

- Both types of herpes belong to a widespread virus family which includes whitlow, chickenpox and shingles.

- Those who have cold sores (oral herpes) as a child are more likely to build up immunity to type one herpes and some immunity to type two.

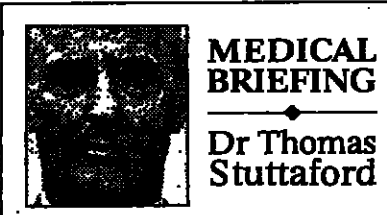
- The virus is transferred through direct skin contact and although it can enter any part of the body through a break in the skin, it prefers the soft, moist skin of the mouth and genitals.

- About 200,000 people in Britain are thought to have genital herpes. A recent Herpes Association survey found that the bulk of their membership is young, single, middle-class and professional. In America the incidence rate is 30 times as high.

- If a mother contracts the disease for the first time while pregnant, there is only a minor risk the baby will abort. If an expectant mother simply has a recurrence, the foetus will be carrying the antibodies and will not suffer. The only high risk area is if the mother contracts the disease just before delivery.

- There have been no known deaths from genital herpes in Britain. It does not cause genital cancer.

Bouncing back to form



MEDICAL BRIEFING
Dr Thomas Stuttford

MY late father-in-law would have been surprised to learn that he had much in common with David Lawrence, the 17th English fast bowler. Both suffered a clean break in their patellae (kneecaps), due to the sudden arrest of their forward momentum.

My father-in-law was talking so animatedly as he descended the steps of his London club that he miscalculated and reached the pavement before he expected it. Mr Lawrence caught his foot in a hole by the crease. In both cases the strain was taken by the powerful quadriceps muscles and the kneecaps through which the muscle is inserted into the leg bone. The tension caused the kneecap to break into two.

The separated fragments are comparatively easily reunited so long as the break is clean; the emphasis is on perfect alignment. Providing the alignment is neat, bony union occurs without damage



Bowled over: David Lawrence hits the ground after shattering his kneecap

to the articular surface and the risk of osteoarthritis is reduced. The bone is united by wire which is usually removed two or three months later.

After the initial operation the knee will be immobilised for a time while union is taking place. Provided that there is no other damage within the joint, and there seems to be no evidence of this in Mr Lawrence's case, he should be bowling again before the end of the summer, and once he has rebuilt his muscle power should be as effective as ever.

When the kneecap is fractured into several pieces, or with some older people whatever the fracture, surgeons some-

times choose to remove the whole bone. Surprisingly, this produces only minimal disability. However, if anybody is unlucky enough to develop osteoarthritis later, they should not despair. Artificial knee joints are most effective.

Mr Hugh Phillips, of the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, one of the pioneers of knee replacement surgery, now fits one new knee to ever two new hips. The proportions are already reversed in the United States and recent statistics have shown that, even when using the older artificial knee joints, 93 per cent of people still had an effective knee 13 years after surgery.

Valentine irritation

which the firm bedside diagnosis is made, it is later shown to be wrong.

Pancreatitis can attack at any age, but most commonly in men in their forties and fifties, and women about ten years later. The cause is often never found but it can be associated with gall bladder or parathyroid disease, with heavy drinking, with raised blood fats, with the taking of various medicines, with injury, or interestingly in view of Mr Lean, after surgery, particularly if the area around the gall bladder is handled.

Ninety per cent of patients with pancreatitis first have acute upper abdominal pain usually associated with vomiting, and often radiating through to the back. When the precipitating cause is attributed to surgery, symptoms start 24 to 48 hours after surgery, at a similar time lag exists following a heavy drinking bout.

In those patients with pre-existing gall bladder disease, however, pancreatitis begins within hours of a heavy meal. The overall death rate is 20 per cent, but in those who develop pancreatitis after surgery, 50 per cent.

ST VALENTINE'S day presents of metal jewellery can inflame the recipient's skin as well as her passion. Doctors now have statistics to prove that women are more likely to suffer from sensitivity to base metals than men.

Patients frequently complain of irritation under watches, around the fastenings at the waists of jeans, and, above all, in the ear lobes if they wear ear-rings.

Pulse magazine reports that doctors at the Royal Hallamshire Hospital, Sheffield, have discovered in a study of more than 612 patients that more than half the women who had pierced ears reported cutaneous reaction to metallic jewellery. A third were sensitive to nickel, the chief culprit, but only 4.4 per cent of the men were sensitive to the metal.

Contact dermatitis can be treated with steroid creams. However, it is better to either wear an alternative metal or protect the skin from direct contact with the jewellery.

Caught by a cruel twist

WHEN Geoffrey Lean, a journalist with the *Observer*, went into hospital he was reassured that it needed only a simple operation to unloop a twist in his guts, which had rebelled against his lunch.

Far from the operation being simple, Mr Lean had developed pancreatitis: one by one his bodily systems were failing, the angels of death were abroad and he was transferred from Sussex to St Thomas's, south London.

This week on ITV Mr Lean told the story of how Professor Ronald Bradley and Dr Geoffrey Spencer, of the intensive care and Lane Fox units at St Thomas's, had struggled to save his life.

The pancreas lies in the upper abdomen; it produces enzymes to digest food, and insulin to control the blood sugar. In pancreatitis the pancreas becomes inflamed and swollen. The inflammation causes a huge local excess of digestive enzymes and autodigestion (the patient di-



Saved: Geoffrey Lean

gesting his own tissue) so destructive that profound shock occurs which results in renal failure, liver damage, circulatory collapse and acute respiratory failure, the lungs become waterlogged. The brain is not spared and the patient may be confused, delirious or comatose, conditions which Mr Lean has described vividly.

Pancreatitis is not easy to diagnose even after blood levels of the enzyme amylase have been recorded and the patient has been investigated with ultrasound and scan. In 80 per cent of cases the diagnosis is made only at surgery, or post mortem. In those 40 per cent of cases in

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Are we right to keep left?

In Europe, Britain is virtually alone in driving on the left. Kevin Eason looks at the growing pressure for a change

Nobody knows exactly why we in Britain drive on the left. But we do know that while Europeans drive happily from country to country in the changing world of a European Community without borders, we suffer a singular and expensive disadvantage: we drive on the wrong side of the road.

There are several theories about how this happened, including one that carriage drivers liked to sit on the right to use their whip hand freely. On the Continent, carriages were usually steered by a postilion or outrider, who sat on the left rear horse and needed to pass on the right to gauge the clearance with passing traffic.

The most romantic version is that British travellers on horseback liked to keep left so they were free to draw their swords from a scabbard that hung from the left side of the belt, against highwaymen on the rough and tortuous roads.

Napoleon was apparently on to that bit of English cunning fairly early on, ordering his army to march on the right against the flow of traffic to upset the English armies when he met them.

The fact remains that almost two centuries after Napoleon's right-hand drive through Europe, a million British motorists are exposed every year to the complexities of driving the "wrong" way when they leave cross-Channel ferries to start holidays abroad.

Their two-week break turns into a tricky memory act as they try to make sure that they look the correct way at road junctions. The Automobile Association deals with 90 accidents a month in France alone because motorists become confused over which side of the road they should be using.

Travelling in the opposite direction, foreign motorists, used to driving in several European nations on the right, are constantly baffled by Britain's insistence on remaining on the left.

As the Monopolies and Mergers Commission reminded us last week, British drivers also pay a cash penalty for the historical decision to drive on the opposite side of the road from the rest of Europe. Foreign manufacturers spend between £100 and £300 to swap steering wheels for right-hand drive versions for the British market, which, the commis-

sion observed, only added to the price of a car in Britain.

Even home-based British manufacturers are likely soon to be charging a premium for the privilege of their cars being the wrong way around as exports become more important. Rover, for example, wants 60 per cent of output to be sold abroad eventually.

Many nations have changed successfully, although not necessarily out of choice. Often, military dictators decided for them. Austria switched in 1937, Czechoslovakia in 1939 and Hungary in 1939.

Iceland and Sweden, in the 1960s, are the most recent, amid much blowing of horns and minor bumps and dents.

The first few days of the change-over in Sweden in 1967 were chaotic. Accidents increased by 10 per cent as many distraught drivers found themselves facing a tidal wave of traffic. Both Sweden and Iceland had far fewer vehicles than Britain has, and some imported models were already fitted for driving on the right.

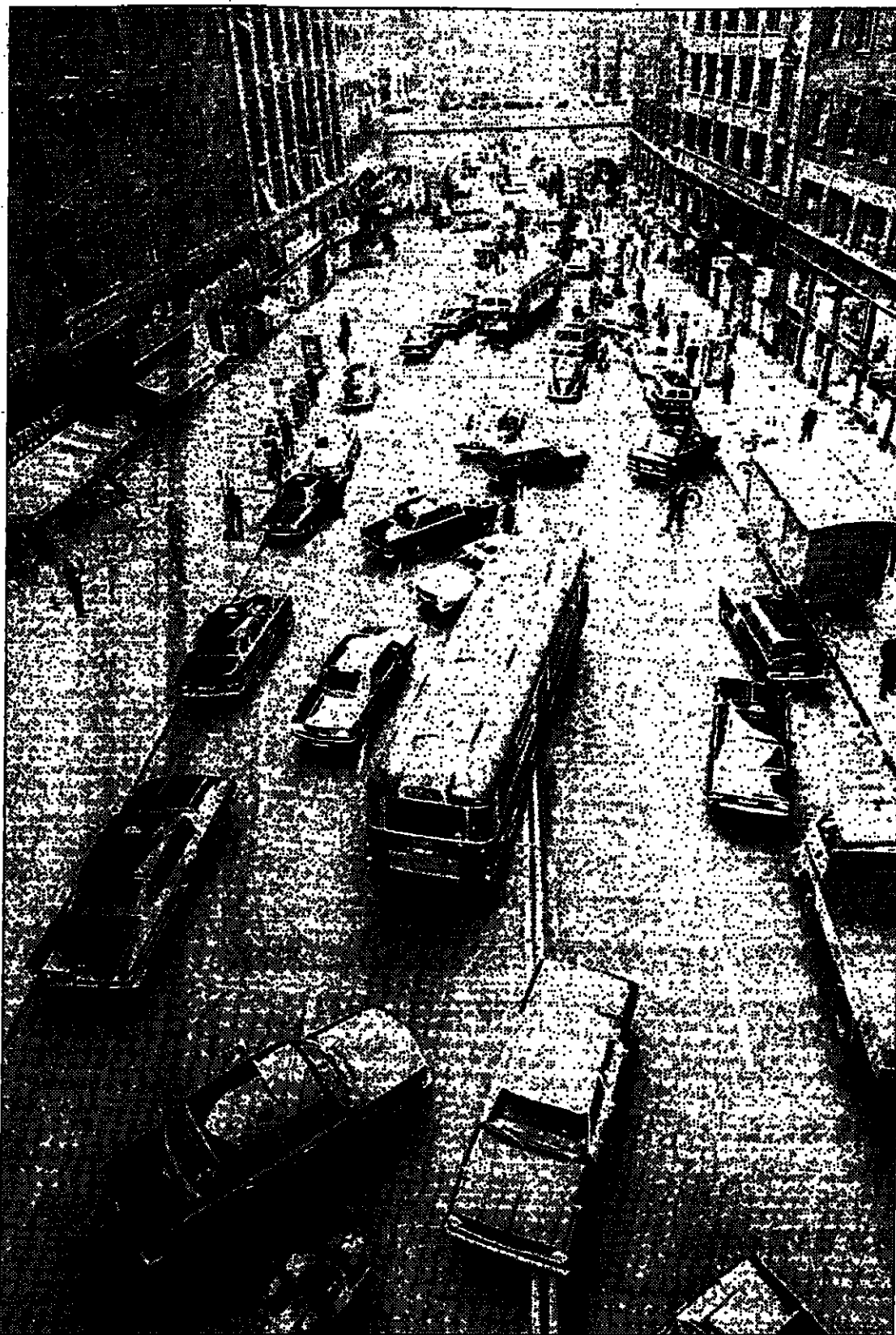
Malcolm Rifkind, the transport secretary, says the experience of those countries is small change compared with what would have to happen in Britain, where 23 million vehicles already clutter the roads. The bill for changing road signs and junctions would be at least £2 billion. About 115,000 buses, with doors that would open on the "wrong" side of the road, would have to be scrapped.

Britain can take heart from the fact that it is not alone. Almost 60 countries drive on the left, many of them, such as the Irish Republic, Malta, South Africa, India, Australia and Hong Kong, because of historical connections with Britain.

Our biggest ally on the wrong side is Japan, which is the world's second biggest car market.

Nobody seems to know why the Japanese are the wrong way around, although perhaps it is because the British supplied many of their early cars, particularly Austins, for assembly there.

The Japanese are certainly dedicated to keeping left. Okinawa, probably separately influenced to the right by its American naval base, provides the only recorded case of a transfer to the left — in July 1978.



Go left — no, stay right: confusion in the streets of Stockholm as Sweden switched sides in 1967

Danger on top

LOADING the roof rack with suitcases, sleeping bags and a baby buggy could be dangerous. To prove the point, the Motor Industry Research Association is starting safety tests on roof racks. The tests have been commissioned by Thule, the Swedish manufacturer of "high-tech" roof boxes, which wants legislation to safeguard consumers and will use the association's results to back its claims.

New-type Tipo

FIAT says its Tipo cars now have better sound insulation, seats, suspension, exhausts, electric and transmission after a substantial revision of the range. Specifications have also been upgraded to meet the demands of the increasingly tough British market. Prices, meanwhile, go up by an average of 2 per cent and now range from £8,598 to £13,949.

Astra extras

FOR the Astra driver who has everything but wants more comes a range of accessories from wooden steering wheels to special racks for carrying bicycles. Vauxhall says it has developed the accessories to allow drivers to go to the company's 580 dealers to choose manufacturer-specified items.

Moscow Mercs

RUSSIA's bread queues may get longer but at least the privileged few will be able to wait at the kerbside in their limousines. Mercedes-Benz has just opened its first Moscow showroom, with 70 staff capable of working on 40 cars daily. Mercedes cars and vans will be on display for the eager Muscovites to look over even if they cannot afford to buy them.

Certainly, executives from the German company are taking no chances with the success of the venture — the showroom was blessed by a Russian Orthodox priest.

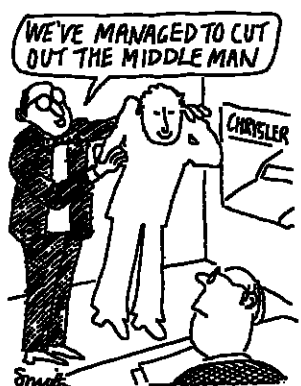
£1m of safety

BMW has got the message from Kenneth Baker, the

home secretary, about car security. The company is spending £1 million on offering its owners a free security audit, halving the price of anti-theft systems to about £250 and improving deadlocking to older 5 and 7 series cars. Tom Purves, the managing director of BMW (GB), says the programme will run until March 20 and will help owners to protect their cars further at a time when motor crimes are being committed at almost two a minute.

Selling point

AS doubts persist over the merits of showroom haggling for the best price, the British motor industry should take note: a garage in the United States fired all its nine salesmen, and sold more cars. *Automotive News*, the leading American motor industry newspaper, says a Chrysler



dealer in Florida jettisoned the old ways of haggling for the best price in favour of a one-price, non-negotiable deal. Sales in the first three weeks of January were 31 new and 45 used vehicles compared with 19 new and 53 used last year.

Prize Primeras

THE awards keep rolling in for Nissan's Primera model, built at Washington, Tyne and Wear. After collecting a handful of trophies last year, the company starts 1992 with the Primera being voted best mid-sized import by *Auto Motor and Sport*, one of Germany's leading motoring magazines. That is a boost for the British factory, which looks to Germany as one of its biggest potential markets, having sold nearly 38,000 cars there last year.

For Thames Man, the Essex car

If Essex Man loves to add furry dice to his old Cortina, a crafty Brummie is likely to be looking for a good deal when he buys a car. When recession was something a car dealer suffered in his hairline and not his bank balance, it did not matter how many cars were waiting in the showroom to be sold.

"You want an Escort, mate; then we've got red ones and blue ones. Just take your pick," the dealers could say. The only negotiation was how much small change was going to be knocked off the asking price.

Now every sale has to be won against fierce competition from manufacturers offering as many discount schemes and cut extras as each other.

But dealers are a car company's strength. They face the customer in showrooms, they get to know their quirks and foibles, their likes and dislikes.

Ian McAllister, the chairman of Ford UK, is capitalising on that strength by logging regional preferences on their computers.

The company has set up 11 dealer groups with the autonomy to decide on local needs and advertising, then order

A survey has allowed Ford to cater for regional preferences

from Ford's factories the cars they want, with their personal specifications.

Buyers in London, for example, are worried about car crime, so they want more security features. In Birmingham, they prefer an attractive finance package with monthly repayments lower than elsewhere. In Newcastle, buyers will look for a low sticker price on cars not too fancy but showing value for money.

Convertible are big sellers but mainly among women as a family's second car, and more often in the South. In rural areas and Northern Ireland, buyers are too sensible to worry about the "pose factor" of their car. They demand diesels for high fuel economy.

The first effects of the research were shown off this week by dealers in the Thames area. Ford's biggest region, it has about 100 dealers, who are expected to sell about 75,000 cars this year.

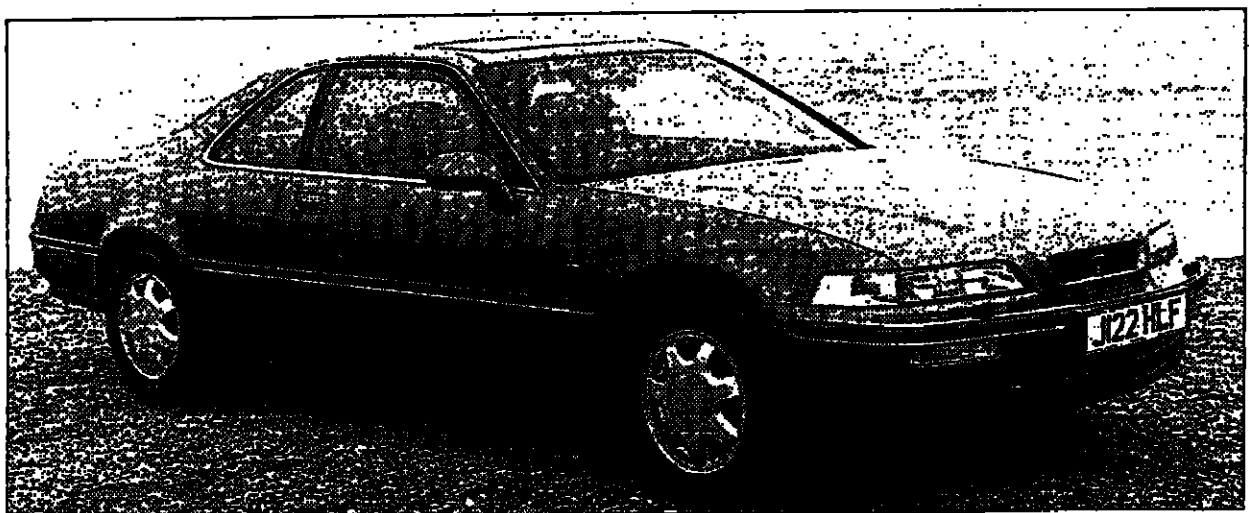
They have devised their own regional model, called the Fiesta Fanfare, tailored to the needs of drivers in and around the capital. They thought out the features their customers wanted most. Security was a main issue, leading to an alarm being added as a standard feature for the first time, plus window etching and a security coded stereo radio-cassette.

The engine is a 1.1-litre and there are two new colours — nouveau red and Matisse blue — and mud flaps, rear spoiler and sunroof. The price is £7,499, and comes with low rate finance, free RAC membership, six-year rust warranty and servicing costs kept down to £100 a year.

That powerful package is endorsed by Mr McAllister, who has authorised production of the first 2,000 cars from the Dagenham factory in Essex.

Now he wants dealers in the other UK regions to think out their own special models. "I am not going to make an Essex Man joke," he said, "but we have to appeal to their preferences."

KEVIN EASON



Fashion of the future: the Honda Legend Coupé, which proved its quality during five days' motorway driving

MEASURING the claims of Honda and Rover that the cars they develop together are completely different on the road is almost impossible until the engine is switched on and the wheels turn.

Driving Honda's Legend should be a similar experience to riding in Rover's 800 model, which was developed alongside the Legend by British and Japanese engineers, Kevin Eason writes.

The similarities are that both cars are a pleasure to drive. The new Rover 800, now in its second incarnation, performs beautifully, especially with the 2-litre engine that is exclusive to the British car.

Move up through the range and there is the pleasure of driving a car with terrific power delivery through the Honda 2.7-litre engine and

Legend fulfils the driver's dream

ROADTEST

HONDA LEGEND COUPÉ: Price, £29,695. Engine, 24-valve, 3.2-litre offering 201bhp at 5,500rpm through electronically controlled, four-speed automatic gearbox; standard equipment includes anti-lock brakes, cruise control, automatic door locking and sealing system and driver's side safety airbag. Performance, 0 to 60mph in eight seconds, top speed 140mph and fuel consumption around town 21.2mpg

gearbox. The Honda engine is one of the best in the executive cars division.

The Japanese saved the best until last and for themselves in the form of the new 3.2-litre engine, which powers the Legend coupé and saloons.

I tested the engine in the


coupé format and within a few minutes I found myself full of admiration for the car. Coupés are the coming fashion but the trade-off in a sleek sloping back is often restricted leg and head room. The Legend suffers none of this, and the doors, which seal automatically to reduce wind

noise, are high and wide for easy entry.

Inside, the cabin hugs and comforts before the key is turned to ignite the purring 3.2-litre. After that, there is no question that here is a Honda thoroughbred, a car that is wonderfully well built and a dream to drive, as I found in five days of long motorway journeys.

Rover is due to release its own coupé version of the 800 later this year. Although the Rover springs from the same family line as the Legend, its shape and "feel" will be totally different because the British engineers will include the characteristics that best suit the model built at Cowley, Oxford.

If the Rover is only half as good, however, it will still be some car, so efficient and reassuring is the Honda.



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BBC 1

- 6.00 **Ceebaaz** (43882) 6.30 **Breakfast News** (12916153)
 6.05 **Kilroy**. Robert Kilroy-Glik chairs a discussion on a topical subject (4172620) 9.50 **Hot Chicks**. A tangle of chocolate and prunes with a raspberry sauce (5187958)
 10.00 **News**, regional news and weather (0837511) 10.05 **Playdays** (11827735) 10.25 **Playdays** (11827735) 10.35 **No Kidding**. Family quiz game show (5421422)
 11.00 **News**, regional news and weather 11.05 **Travel Show Extra**. Reports from Morecambe Bay, Dedham Vale in Constable country, the Belgian resort of Knokke and a survival course in the Outer Hebrides (7304443) 11.30 **People Today** presented by Miriam Stoppard and Russell Grant (308240)
 12.20 **Pebble Mili**. Music and chat introduced by Alan Titchmarsh (3986004) 12.55 **Regional News and Weather** (90033646)
 1.00 **One O'Clock News**, and weather (22004) 1.30 **Neighbours**. (Ceebaaz) (6) (115817)
 1.50 **Film: Sabrina Fair** (1954, b/w).
 • **CHOICE**: Left out of the recent Billy Wilder season, *Sabrina Fair is screened instead as an offering for Valentine's day. Both decisions can be justified. The film is untypical of Wilder's work and it is a romantic comedy. The source is a play by Samuel Taylor, perhaps better known as a writer for Alfred Hitchcock, and it was adapted by Taylor and another Hitchcock regular, Ernest Lehman. If the scenic Wilder will be largely missing, it is a film of some charm, notable for the hilarious miscasting of Humphrey Bogart in a part out for Cary Grant. Whatever Bogart's talents were, they did not include urbane comedy. Bogart and William Holden play brothers of a rich Long Island family. Bogart is the solemn, industrious one and Holden the playboy and they are competing for the attentions of the chauffeur's daughter, Audrey Hepburn (78373501)
 3.40 **Bugs Bunny** (7696172) 3.50 **Rhino**. Ideas on recycling household waste into useful objects (s) (6872849) 4.05 **Jacksons**. Helena Bonham-Carter with the last part of *The Way to Saffron*, by Philipp Pearce (6362240) 4.20 **The Further Adventures of SuperTed**. Cartoon (s) (5866454) 4.30 **Hangar 17**. Music and fun presented by Mick Jagger (s) (2352555)
 4.55 **News**. Extra report on today's vote in parliament on a new law to protect wild animals (3006055) 5.10 **Grange Hill**. School drama series. (Ceebaaz) (s) (2112153) 5.35 **Neighbours** (s). (Ceebaaz) (s) (309288) Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster
 6.00 **News** with Peter Sissons and Maura Stuart. (Ceebaaz) Weather (517) 6.30 **Regional News**. Northern Ireland: Neighbours
 7.00 **Wogan**. Tonight's edition includes the results of last year's Children in Need appeal (s) (370153)
 7.35 **Harry and the Hendersons**. American comedy series. (Ceebaaz) (s) (699882)*



They're free: it's the final call for the camp hoteliers (8.00pm)

- 8.00 **Grace and Favour**. The last in the camp comedy series in which the staff of Grace Brothers are transferred to a country house hotel. Tonight they await the arrival of a party of Americans on a cultural tour of Europe. (Ceebaaz) (s) (2191)
 8.30 **Caught in the Act**. Another selection of home video disasters introduced by Shane Richie. (Ceebaaz) (s) (6998)
 9.00 **Nine O'Clock News** with Martyn Lewis. (Ceebaaz) Regional news and weather (1822)
 9.30 **Love Hurts**. Laurence Marks and Maurice Gran's comedy drama continues with Frank and Tessa's relationship taking a back seat to domestic troubles. (Ceebaaz) (s) (635375)
 10.20 **Film: Killer on Board** (1977) starring Claude Atkins, George Hamilton and Jane Seymour. Standard made-for-television disaster movie about the passengers and crew of a luxury cruise liner being struck down by a deadly virus. Directed by Philip Leacock (797085). Wales: Snooker 10.50-12.00 **Film: The Night Stalker**. Northern Ireland: Sports scene 10.40 **Film: Trancers** 11.55 **Olympics '92** introduced by Helen Rollason. The first phase of the ice dance competition with commentary from Christopher Dean. Dean has a family interest: his wife Isabelle and her brother Paul Duchesnay are the favourites. Plus a round-up of the ice hockey action (677004)
 12.45am **Weather** (7014488)

BBC 2

- 6.45 **Open University: The Necessity for History** (8322820). Ends at 7.10
 8.00 **Breakfast News** (2469801)
 8.15 **Westminster**. An up-to-date business from both Houses (9491085)
 9.00 **Daytime on Two**. Educational programmes
 9.20 **News** and weather (10429714) followed by **Words and Pictures**. Reading for five to seven-year-olds (s) (7406453) 2.15 **Weekend Outlook**. A preview of the weekend's Open University programmes (10418337)
 2.20 **Sport on Friday** presented by Helen Rollason. Coverage of the Winter Olympics with action from the 120km ski-jumping team event, the double luge, the women's 3x7.5km triathlon and ice hockey. Wales: Snooker and Olympics. News and weather (s) (9003362) 3.30 **News**, regional news and weather (7830538)
 4.00 **Ceebaaz**. Paul Cook with another round of the game for wordsmiths (882)
 4.30 **Wildlife Games**. Fergus Keeling introduces film clips of baby animals making their first tentative moves (s) (406)
 5.00 **Special Children Special Project**. A look at the efforts of a Barnados fostering project in finding homes in the Birmingham area for children with severe learning difficulties or profound disabilities. The youngsters would otherwise find themselves condemned to the ghettos in institutions (1849)
 5.30 **Growing Pains**. Geoffrey Smith travels to West Taffield, near Girona, to soak up the beauty of another north of England garden (s) (782055)
 5.35 **The Clothes Show**. Includes a look at how a small Irish family firm became the producer of a million T-shirts a week (s) (330530)
 6.00 **Olympics Today**. Desmond Lynam introduces action from day seven (11007848)
 7.40 **Dr Who** (b/w). Episode three of the five-part adventure *The Mind Robber*, starring Patrick Troughton in the title role, first shown in 1968 (s) (660265)
 8.00 **Public Eye: Acquaintance Rape - Hidden from View, Hidden from Justice?**
 • **CHOICE**: Ever the model of crisp and pertinent reporting, Public Eye turns its attention to rape. Jenny Cliffe's film is built round a new study suggesting that as many as one in five women are survivors of rape or attempted rape. Very few of the victims go to the police. This is because most rapes are carried out by men who are friends and acquaintances. Not unnaturally women tend either to blame themselves or feel that no one will believe them. In the United States the phenomenon is known as "date rape", a term familiar from the William Kennedy Smith trial. Despite the reluctance of victims to come forward, the number of reported rapes in Britain has doubled in the past decade. Yet less than half the men accused of rapes in magistrates' courts are found guilty, the lowest conviction rate for a serious crime (6743)
 8.30 **Old Garden, New Gardener**. In the last of the series for the novice gardener Geoff Hamilton and Gay Search offer advice on getting rid of troublesome trees and how to plant new ones. (Ceebaaz) (8240)
 9.00 **Victoria Wood - as Seen on TV**. More delicious comic monologues, sketches and songs and another episode from the spoof soap *Acorn Antiques* from Victoria Wood, Julia Williams, Celia Imrie, Duncan Preston and Susie Blake (s) (9462)
 9.30 **Arena**. On the third anniversary of Salman Rushdie's death sentence a gathering of international writers and artists re-assess the importance of free expression (29443)
 10.30 **Newsnight** with Peter Shaw (835535)
 11.15 **What the Papers Say** (781355). Wales: Wales in Westminster 11.30 **Scottish Report**. Ian MacWhirter on the progress of parliamentary committees (54379). Wales 11.45-12.00 **What the Papers Say** 12.00 **Weather** (7015080)
 12.05am **Film: The House of Bernarda Alba** (1987). Effective screen version of Federico Garcia Lorca's play about a grieving widow who sentences her five unmarried daughters to eight years of mourning after the death of their father. Starring Ingrid Isenhardt, Ana Belen and Florida Chico. Directed by Mario Camus. In Spanish with English subtitles. (500283). Ends at 1.50



Three years on and still in hiding: Salman Rushdie (9.30pm)

- 9.30 **Arena**. On the third anniversary of Salman Rushdie's death sentence a gathering of international writers and artists re-assess the importance of free expression (29443)
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ITV

- 6.00 **TV-am** (9478801)
 9.25 **Keynotes**. Music quiz for teams, hosted by Alistair Dvill (1292443) 9.55 **Thames News** (4231240)
 10.00 **The Time**. The Place... A topical discussion series (2667379)
 10.40 **This Morning**. Magazine series on family matters (3951627)
 12.10 **Rainbow**. Educational fun for the very young (2667269)
 12.30 **News** with John Suchet. (Oracle) Weather (6712527) 1.10 **Thames News** (3955530)
 1.20 **Home and Away** (Oracle) (9757659) 1.50 **A Country Practice** (s) (5297213)
 2.20 **Highway to Heaven**. Jonathan (Michael Landon), the apprentice angel, comes to the aid of a television anchorman (Robert Culp) with a drug problem (8001131)
 3.15 **ITN News** headlines (9255646) 3.20 **Thames News** headlines (8225558) 3.25 **The Young Doctors** (8239998)
 3.55 **Cartoon** featuring *Lord Ringer* (s) (788705) 4.05 **Tiny Toon Adventures**. Cartoon series (8651578) 4.25 **Truckers**. Animated adventures (837172) 4.40 **Woof! Adventures** of a boy who turns into a dog at the most inopportune times. (Oracle) (s) (1083375)
 5.10 **Home and Away** (s). (Oracle) Weather (535559)
 5.55 **O'Clock News**. A Valentine's day special presented by Frank Bough. The guests include Maureen Lipman, Derek Nimmo and Jilly Cooper (515646) 6.55 **The Day**. A 29-year-old woman and a 33-year-old man prepare to meet each other for the first time through a dating agency (198820)
 7.00 **Family Fortunes**. Quiz game show for family teams, hosted by Les Dennis (s) (8511)
 7.30 **Coronation Street**. (Oracle) (849)



Theatrical humour: McAvittie, Preston and Campi (8.00pm)

- 8.00 **Surgical Spirit**.
 • **CHOICE**: There might not have been many bets on *Surgical Spirit* stretching to a fourth series but Peter Leeson's hospital comedy has proved more resilient than its ingredients might suggest. In essence the show offers little more than helpings of hospital banter and a hint of romance between two of the surgeons. The plotting is often thin, as in tonight's episode when the imperious Sheila (Nicholas McAvittie) decides to celebrate her decade nite by playing taped music in the operating theatre. But if the sum of the show is rather less than its parts, these include consistently snappy dialogue and a raft of skilled performances. *Surgical Spirit* is by no means "the cutting edge of comedy" which the publicity claims but it chugs along enjoyably enough. The best advice is to ignore the plots and relish the lines. (Oracle) (4559)
 8.30 **Second Thoughts**. A comedy series starring James Bolam and Lynda Bellingham as couple contemplating marriage for the second time around. (Oracle) (s) (3066)
 9.00 **The Good Guys**. A comedy drama about two men who share the same name, apartment and misadventures. Tonight the good Guys are asked to help Lofthouse's niece who is convinced that her dead uncle has been murdered, and did not commit suicide. Starring Keith Barron, Nigel Havers and Michael Jayston. (Oracle) (5511)
 10.00 **News at Ten** with Trevor Macdonald and Fiona Armstrong (Oracle) Weather. (73269) 10.35 **LWT News** and weather (34355)
 10.40 **London Programme**. Trevor Phillips investigates the difficulties posed by residential parking in the capital (100559)
 11.15 **My Friend**. Actor James Coburn talks about the advantages of living near Cannes (783511)
 11.45 **Dial Midnight**. The first of a new phone-in series presented by Annette Cooke and Samantha Norman, including a dating service and a resident psychic (264508)
 1.05 **The Jester**. A New York police officer, officers evening chat show host insults more intrepid phone callers (s) (5054532)
 2.10 **American Gladiators**. Feats of strength and ingenuity for both sexes (3357659)
 3.05 **CineAction**. The latest news from the American film scene (1054493) 3.35 **News Power**. Rock videos (1425347)
 4.35 **Kojak**. The New York policeman, officers evening chat show host insults more intrepid phone callers (s) (5054532)
 5.30 **ITN Morning News** with Brenda Ross (58931). Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 **Channel 4 Daily** (9478443) 9.25 **Schools** (9488085)
 12.00 **The Parkers**. A programme presented by Sarah Baxter. Includes Sir Robin Day interviewing the Labour party employment spokesman Tony Blair (37612)
 12.30 **Business Daily**. The latest news from the world's money markets (20795)
 1.00 **Sesame Street**. Early learning entertainment (58578)
 2.00 **Film: Footprints in the Dark** (1941, b/w) starring Eryn Finn. A light-hearted mystery about a banker who moonlights as a thriller writer and turns his hand at solving the murder of a jewel thief. With Brenda Marshall, Ralph Bellamy and Alan Hale. Directed by Lloyd Bacon (533268)
 3.45 **Eldebrades**. Animation from Bulgaria (8973578)
 4.00 **Travelog**. Robert Elms explores Denmark (s). (Teletext) (s) (578)
 4.30 **Countdown**. Richard Whiteley and Carol Vorderman with another round of the words and numbers game (462)
 5.00 **But He Loves Me**. Teenage drama following the off-on romance between a 16-year-old and a somewhat violent classmate. Starring Kelli Williams and Donovan Leitch (776648)
 5.50 **Home Improvement**. Pastiche animation from The Netherlands (875239)
 6.00 **Happy Days**. Nostalgic high school comedy set in 1950s Milwaukee. Starring Henry Winkler and Suzi Quatro (627)
 6.30 **Tonight with Jonathan Ross** (207)
 7.00 **Channel 4 News** with Jon Snow and Zeinab Badawi. (Teletext) Weather (947849)
 7.50 **First Reaction** (12801)



Will she, won't she: Sinbad proposes to Toria (8.00pm)

- 8.00 **Brookside**. Soap set in suburban Merseyside. Tonight Sinbad picks up courage for a Valentine's day marriage proposal to Toria. Starring Michael Starke and Cheryl Markie. (Teletext) (s) (5801)
 8.30 **Q&A**. Sports quiz between members of the sports desk of national newspapers. This week the Observer's finest meet their counterparts from the News of the World. Will Buckley is the question-master (s) (1608)
 9.00 **Cheers**. Sam and Rebecca leave the confines of the Cheers bar to contemplate parenthood. Starring Kirstie Alley and Ted Danson. (Teletext) (s) (4533)
 9.30 **How Does Your Garden Grow?** In the last of the entertaining series Philip Wood and David Wilson explore the Ballinamona, Co Antrim, garden of Margaret and Louis Glynn with its collection of rare, curious and beautiful plants and flowers. (Teletext) (40559)
 10.00 **Dream On**. American adult comedy following the romantic escapades of a middle-aged publisher (Brian Benben) coming to terms with his childhood after his 12-year marriage and divorce. This week he receives a shock when he discovers that his latest love is a former porn star. (Teletext) (s) (764511)
 10.35 **Whose Line is it Anyway?** Off the cuff humour hosted by Clive Anderson (90827)
 11.05 **The Word**. Music, news and interviews from the world of entertainment (s) (73019)
 12.05am **Film: Phantoms of the Paradise** (1974) starring Paul Williams and Jessica Harper. Playful rock horror movie combining elements of *The Phantom of the Opera* and the *Faust* tale, directed by Brian De Palma (886115)
 1.45 **Tonight with Jonathan Ross** (s) (20736). Ends at 2.15

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes

The numbers now appear on each TV programme listing are Video PlusCodes, which allow you to instantly programme your video recorder with a VideoPlus+ handset. VideoPlus+ can be used with most video. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you want to watch. For more details call VideoPlus on 0800 121204 (calls charged at 48p per minute, 30p off-peak) or write to VideoPlus, VTM Ltd, 77 Fulham Palace Road, London W8 3BA. VideoPlus+, VideoPlus+ and Video PlusCodes are trademarks of Gemstar Marketing Ltd.

SATellite

- SKY ONE**
 • Via the Astra and Mariposa satellites.
 6.00am **The DJ Kat Show** (2705559) 6.40 **News** (581337) 6.50 **Playdays** (4459714) 8.10 **Cartoons** (4044448) 9.30 **The Young and the Restless** (581714) 11.00 **The Bold and the Beautiful** (39258) 11.30 **The Young and the Restless** (581714) 12.30 **News** (581337) 1.30 **Cartoons** (4044448) 2.30 **Santa Barbara** (7913004) 2.45 **Who's the Boss?** (154774) 3.15 **The Bold and the Beautiful** (39258) 3.45 **The DJ Kat Show** (4459714) 4.50 **News** (581337) 5.15 **Cartoons** (4044448) 5.30 **Playdays** (4459714) 6.00 **News** (581337) 6.15 **Cartoons** (4044448) 6.30 **Playdays** (4459714) 6.40 **News** (581337) 6.50 **Playdays** (4459714) 7.00 **News** (581337) 7.15 **Cartoons** (4044448) 7.30 **Playdays** (4459714) 7.40 **News** (581337) 7.50 **Playdays** (4459714) 8.00 **News** (581337) 8.15 **Cartoons** (4044448) 8.30 **Playdays** (4459714) 8.40 **News** (581337) 8.50 **Playdays** (4459714) 9.00 **News** (581337) 9.15 **Cartoons** (4044448) 9.30 **Playdays** (4459714) 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